



Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Radio Notes Testimony Against Panama's Noriega *FL122030 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 88*

[Text] A Cuban-born convict yesterday joined the U.S. campaign to discredit Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Ramon Milian Rodriguez, serving a 43-year-sentence for leading a drug trafficking ring, told a Senate commission that Noriega received \$10 million a month to protect money-laundering operations linked to drug trafficking. These statements follow the ones made by former Panamanian Consul Jose Blandon and other drug smugglers. The Panamanian Government has called these statements false and destabilizing.

Castro Meets Soviet Science Academy President *FL121745 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 88*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Guriy Marchuk, president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and member of the CPSU Central Committee. They referred to the scientific development in Cuba and the USSR. Academician Marchuk gave the commander in chief his impressions of the Cuban scientific research centers he has toured during his visit. He also praised the development of medicine and biotechnology in our country and the enthusiasm he saw in Cuban researchers at the various fields and centers he visited.

Marchuk Leaves

*FL131423 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 88*

[Text] Academician Marchuk, president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and member of the CPSU Central Committee, left our country last night. During his stay in Cuba, academician Marchuk met with Cuban leaders and visited various scientific research centers where he was able to appreciate the development of those organizations in our country.

Soviet Notes High Level of Economic Relations *FL130306 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2036 GMT 12 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Evgeniy Zavivalov, economic adviser of the Soviet Embassy in Havana, observed that tomorrow is the 28th anniversary of economic and trade relations between the Soviet Union and Cuba. He noted the high level these relations have reached. [passage omitted]

Zavivalov and Nikolay Yurkov, deputy trade chairman of the Soviet Embassy, referred to important projects that have been built or are under construction. Construction will begin this year on the Varadero-Cardenas and Matanzas-Cienfuegos pipelines. Also planned for this year are nuclear energy, steel, oil, and agricultural projects.

The training of Cuban personnel in Soviet institutes, which were attended by more than 2,000 engineers and technicians during the 5-year period from 1981 to 1985 is among the achievements cited.

Soviet and Cuban representatives present at a news conference at the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association said trade between the two countries had grown to 50 times that of trade in 1960 and cooperation is multifaceted.

Outlines Cooperation Goals

*FL151548 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish
1407 GMT 15 Feb 88*

[Interview with Eugeni Zavivalov, economic adviser of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba, in Russian with superimposed Spanish translation, by (Dasi Gomez); date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [(Gomez)] Soviet-Cuban economic cooperation is marking another anniversary. We are here with Eugeni Zavivalov, economic adviser of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba, to observe this occasion.

We would like you to refer to the principal aspects of Soviet-Cuban cooperation through the year 2000.

[Zavivalov] In reference to cooperation in several concrete areas of the national economies, [words indistinct] the units of the first nuclear center [words indistinct] in the early part of the next 5-year period. Those Cuban electrical units [words indistinct] will reach a higher level, what we call a qualitative nuclear level.

In addition, we can say we already have cooperation agreements for the creation of another (?large-scale) nuclear center in the near future. Cooperation will be developed in the nickel industry. The Republic of Cuba has a good chance to make itself a world leader in cobalt nickel production. The electronics industry will also be developed more, as well as other areas, such as transportation and communications. We can confidently say cooperation opportunities are very favorable.

[(Gomez)] Could you identify the principal areas of cooperation for this year?

[Zavivalov] Trade between our countries this year will exceed 8 billion transferable [as heard] rubles. We plan to begin approximately 20 cooperation projects this year with our Cuban comrades. For example, this includes the construction of the (only) ophthalmological microsurgery center.

[(Gomez)] Have specialists from the Dr (Geolof) Institute participated in this new center that will open in Cuba?

[Zavivalov] We can say with confidence that very good, fraternal, and productive relations have developed between this center and the institute. There is no doubt about it. Construction should be completed this year on the Punta Gorda nickel plant.

We currently have projects planned for tire production. Comrade Fidel Castro called attention to this problem when he participated in the meeting of the directors of the Basic Industry Ministry. Cuba is currently required to use [words indistinct] of income to import that product.

We have an intergovernmental agreement to provide Cuba with technical assistance in the reconstruction and upgrading of capabilities of three tire plants.

[(Gomez)] How has perestroika influenced Soviet-Cuban cooperation?

[Zavivalov] Perestroika particularly provides for the substitution of a [word indistinct] trade for stronger scientific-technical production ties to develop cooperation. As is known, the essence of this transition is the incorporation [words indistinct] of the producers to activities related to foreign economic relations.

The incorporation of the production enterprises themselves will have a favorable influence. (?This is) evident in the new state organ for foreign economic relations. I am referring to the creation of the new Soviet ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. It will provide, in one way or another, solutions to bilateral economic and trade relations, particularly in reconstructing the goals of the national economy.

[(Gomez)] We agree with that view. We thank you for your remarks to Cuban television. Thank you very much.

Protocol on Sugar Industry Signed With Soviets
FL131255 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] The 15th meeting of the Cuban-Soviet permanent working group for the development of the Cuban sugar industry has ended its work in Havana. The group signed a protocol for cooperation in rebuilding sugarmills and modernizing railroad transportation, among other objectives.

Second Phase of Nuclear Power Plant Begins

FL160005 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Feb 88

[By Omar George]

[Text] The pouring of cement at the pump chamber of reactors No three and four has begun the second construction phase of the nuclear power plant in Juragua. This section will have the important function of pumping the water used to cool the turbo-generator sets and reactors. The drilling here, up to 15 meters below sea level, is done to inject cement into the ground to compact it and avoid flooding. Then the area is dynamited with a series of controlled explosions to avoid damaging the cement layers. The result will be the same as that of the pump chamber of the first two reactors already in an advanced stage of construction, a deep cavity that will ensure the ground's impermeability which allows for the rest of the work to continue. Thousands of tons of cement were injected in the first pump chamber and it is expected that this second one will use the same amount because of the hollow nature of the ground.

The first and second pump chambers are designed to withstand the sudden ebb of the ocean or the pounding of a 10 meter wave which are associated with the phenomenon called tsunami or tidal wave. It can also withstand the effects of an 8 degree earthquake in the MKS [expansion unknown] scale.

The work on the pump chamber begins a new stage in the construction of the nuclear power plant in Juragua which will continue with the construction of reactors Nos three and four that will begin next year.

Haiti

Prime Minister Submits Cabinet to Congress

PA122143 Paris AFP in Spanish 1754 GMT
12 Feb 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 12 Feb (AFP)—Martial Celestin, the new Haitian Prime Minister, today submitted to Congress (Senate and Chamber of Deputies) a cabinet of 14 ministers and 5 secretaries of state for a vote of confidence on the general political declaration of the government.

The cabinet, composed mostly of liberal or moderate personalities, includes only one leader who held office in Jean-Claude Duvalier's regime: Emmanuel Fils-Aime (national education), a professor who was education minister in September and November 1985, when Duvalier was ousted.

The key National Defense, Armed Forces and Military Service Portfolio, which was recently created, was assigned to General Williams Regala, who asked for retirement from the Army 48 hours ago.

General Regala, considered a strong personality, was from February 1986 until last Sunday second in the military ranking of the National Government Council (CNG) and held the interior and national defense portfolios.

Regala operated with a strong hand during those 2 years, a period during which the opposition reported numerous abuses and bloody excesses they attributed to the Armed Forces.

However, during that period he also distinguished himself by allowing, for the first time in the country's history, complete freedom of the press and political activity, even for the Communist Party that has traditionally been persecuted or outlawed since its creation in 1934. Since 8 February 1988 Regala had been assistant commander in chief of the Army under General Henri Namphy, former head of the CNG.

Gerard Latortue was assigned the Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Worship Ministry. He is an expert with the UNIDO in Paris, and he lived in exile for 23 years during Duvalier's regime.

Yves Auguste was named interior, decentralization, general police and civil service minister. He is a career diplomat who broke with Duvalier in 1958 and since the fall of Duvalier headed the Haitian mission to the United Nations.

Alain Turnier, an industrialist and liberal historian, was named finance, economic affairs, and public function minister.

Roger Savain, a faithful supporter of President Manigat, was named information, popular education and tourism minister.

Doctor Adrien Westerband, Red Cross director, was named public health, population, urbanization and housing minister. Liberal intellectual Franck Etienne, writer and playwright, was named culture minister.

Agronomist Rene Laroche was named to head the new Ministry of Popular Cooperatives and Community Development.

Gerard Philippe-Auguste, president of the Organization of the Country Movement (MOP) and defeated candidate in the 17 January elections, was named agriculture, natural resources, and environment minister. He is the only political leader to join the cabinet and did so after having backed the policy of national reconciliation and unity promoted by President Leslie Manigat. Exiled for years in Africa, Philippe-Auguste is an agronomist who spent most of his career in the FAO.

The rest of the cabinet consists of five secretariats of state, including the nine departments of the women's affairs and youth, assigned to Roland Chander (responsible for the Red Cross), and housing and urbanization, entrusted to architect Daniel Mallerbranche.

Communist Party Criticizes Manigat Election

*FL121507 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1930 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Text] The Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] tells the Haitian people in a declaration that the sham elections of the 17th, which put Leslie Francois Manigat into power and resulted in the appointment of a large majority of Duvalierist deputies and senators to the Legislative Assembly, is what the history of abuse, assassination, and political maneuvering of the Haitian people has led to.

The Manigat government is the result of tacit agreement between the macoutes, the Duvalierists, and foreign reactionaries, who care neither about the Haitian people nor any other people. In this big plot, the U.S. imperialists first tried to hide behind the Caribbean countries, especially Balaguer—who cannot stand Haitians—and the reactionary governments of Venezuela and Jamaica.

In this affair, the Duvalierists succeeded in using Manigat to get their act back together. The reactionary government apparatus managed to remain more solidly disciplined and determined than the people's movement. Meanwhile the democratic politicians were mostly vainly gesticulating, making futile statements that allowed for no cooperation and unitary action because they are dependent on the Americans and because they allowed foreigners to act as referees in Haitian politics until they were dumped, like old rags, onto the trash heap.

According to the PUCH Secretariat, what was missing thereby allowing things to come to this point was organization within discipline. That is why, says the PUCH, it will take action to return to the path of dignity, the path of honor, the path of 7 February 1986.

Manigat Invited to Sugarcane Growers Meeting

*FL121611 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] Eng Raul Beauvoir and 2,321 members of the sugarcane growers' cooperative of the Leogane, Petit Goave, and Grand Goave plains are going to meet at the Darbonne sugar mill on Friday 19 February to submit to Haitian President Manigat and members of his cabinet a work program in connection with the rehabilitation of the Darbonne sugar mill; Beauvoir is president of the community action group for the area.

According to Engineer Beauvoir, the project, which has existed for several years, was ratified by Finance Minister Leslie Delatour, who had promised to visit the

cooperative's members in Leogane to shed some light on this matter. They say they were never able to meet with Delatour. Beauvoir will give us details.

[Begin recording] This is Eng Raul Beauvoir. I am the president of the sugarcane growers cooperative of the Leogane, Grand Goave, and Petit Goave plains. I am also the president of the community action groups of these three plains.

I came to the television station today to announce to all members of the cooperatives and of the community action groups that on Friday 19 February, at 0800, we will hold a special meeting at the Darbonne sugar mill, which we expect thousands of people to attend. We are inviting the president of the Republic—who has come to Darbonne in the past to talk to us and whom we know very well—and all his staff to attend so we can see if together, we can come up with a work program for the Leogane, Grand Goave, and Petit Goave plains. In turn, we would like to hear any proposals he can make in connection with the program we will present to him, so we can see what can be done to improve the situation of the population of these plains. [passage omitted]

I have already contacted some sugarcane growers in Les Cayes and in the north so we can see if we can form a single big sugarcane growers cooperative in Haiti. There is something that I find very striking and which I would like to mention.

Haiti has only four small sugar mills. Presently all four are shut down. The Dominican Republic has some 16 sugar mills; all of which are operating. In Cuba, from their production, I figure they must have some 50 or 60 sugar mills, and all of them are operative.

Haiti is the least amount of sugar in the entire American Continent [as heard]. I was reading an article on Taiwan, Nationalist China, and I was astonished to see that at a time when our sugar is not selling, Taiwan has 300 sugar mills operating. A little country like Taiwan! Without counting the mills that use sugar beets! Three hundred mills that use cane are operating. Almost all of these mills were built within the last 10 years.

How is it that everyone can sell their sugar and that we, Haiti, cannot even keep our four mills open?

This is a big question lodged in my head. I am looking for the answer. I haven't found it yet.

We want to organize, to try to see if we can get our country working too, so that at least the four small mills we do have can sell their sugar. Because if you go there right now you will see that they all have sugar stored and yet we are importing sugar from foreign countries. [end recording]

Veterans Association Members Arrested
*FL121530 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1930 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Text] The three members of the Haitian Veterans Association [Asosyasyon Veteran Milite Ayisyen, AVMH], who were arrested yesterday morning by military from the Dessalines Barracks at the association's headquarters, were released yesterday afternoon. We interviewed one of them, (Angelo D. Ciriac), who is in charge of public relations for the association.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] You are one of the members of the AVMH who was arrested yesterday morning. Can you tell the listeners how it happened?

[[Ciriac]] I am Mr (Angelo D. Ciriac), in charge of the AVMH public relations. Yesterday morning at 1127, a delegation from the Dessalines Barracks appeared at AVMH headquarters. They came upstairs and found three of us there. They had us face the wall and searched us. They took everything there was at the AVMH headquarters, all the articles we had. They took us downstairs and put us in a vehicle and took us back to the Dessalines Barracks. When we got there, they put a revolver to my ear and asked us, first, who we were. I told them the other two were AVMH members and that I was the person in charge of public relations, and I told them my name.

They said: You are just the person we are looking for. And they put a revolver to my ear and told me to tell them where (Eli Cantave) and (Macial Celestin) were to be found.

(Cantave) is the AVMH's secretary general. (Celestin) is the president of the AVMH.

The men questioning me told me I had to give them these men's address. Unfortunately for me, I don't even know their addresses. I remained silent for there was nothing I could say. Among the papers they seized they found a telephone number. They asked me if I was familiar with that number. They said it had the name (Edi Cantave) written under it.

They took me and held a revolver to my head and told me to call the number so I could get (Cantave's) address. Although I didn't want to do it, (?I could see that they were ready to beat me), so I obeyed them and called. Someone answered and gave me (Cantave's) address and the house number.

The military men had gone to the AVMH headquarters without any warrant or justice of the peace. Now they got a justice of the peace and went to (Cantave's) house. They took me with them. They made me lie down on the floor of the vehicle. They trampled me with their feet. They laid all their revolvers [as heard] down on my back. They were really rough on me.

[Reporter] What time was that?

[(Ciriac)] They arrested me at 1127. Then they took us to the Dessalines Barracks. At around 1200 or 1230, they returned with us. They left the other two men at the Dessalines Barracks and they took me with them to (Cantave's) home. When we got there, they left me lying in the vehicle and they went in. First they went to the house of a prominent person in the neighborhood. It wasn't even (Cantave's) house. They made everyone face the wall and searched them. They entered the people's house and searched all their things. They even looked under their beds.

When the people became really frightened, they pointed out (Cantave's) house. The military then went to (Cantave's) and searched the house. They confiscated all our documents.

[Reporter] Was there anyone else at (Cantave's) home?

[(Ciriac)] His wife. The only reason they didn't arrest her was that the (?public) asked them to give her a break. They said (Cantave) was around and that it was he whom they should take—that things surely couldn't be at the point where they were going to take the wife in place of the husband. [words indistinct]

They took all the documents we had. They took a big notebook we had with the names of all the veterans, their photographs, and their addresses in it. They even disconnected (Cantave's) telephone and took it back to the Dessalines Barracks.

When they took us they (?kept threatening to put out one of our eyes). They said we had to hand over (Cantave).

[Reporter] What kind of questions did they ask you?

[(Ciriac)] They wanted to know where (Cantave) was and who had formed the AVMH. They asked many other questions. They accused us. They said (Cantave) had participated in the assassination of a soldier. They said the AVMH had participated in killing that soldier.

[Reporter] What soldier?

[(Ciriac)] (Joamus Camus). They said we were involved in his murder and they were determined to get their hands on (Cantave) one way or another. Despite all their pressure, I remained neutral because I didn't know anything. I cannot say what I do not know. They locked us up in a little room. They didn't release us until 1630 when they called us in and said: Gentlemen, you may go now. Go ahead and continue. We will catch up with you later.

The AVMH was not formed to take up arms against the Army. We formed an association to be able to make a living because when we left the Army...[changes thought]

Many of us were fired. The Army booted us out. It didn't worry about what would become of us. It booted us out like dogs—excuse the expression. It showed no more consideration for us than if we were dogs. So we tried to form the AVMH just so we could get together to undertake small projects from which we could make a living. But we did not form an association to go out and fight the Army. We did not form an association to take up arms against the Army. Neither did we form a terrorist group. The AVMH is not a terrorist group. We are an association affiliated with the Group of 57. [passage indistinct] The AVMH is an association affiliated with the National Concerted Action Front.

[Reporter] For his part, (Eli Cantave) confirmed to us that his house had been searched. He also told us that the military had carted away all the AVMH's files. However, he informs them that he will not live in hiding because he is within his rights, living the life of an honest citizen in this country. [end recording]

Union Members Implicated in Illegal Actions
FL112251 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] A few days ago, the Federation of Workers Trade Unions [FOS] said it noted with regret that (Schiller Marcelin) and (Andre Francois) have taken the liberty of boldly employing FOS letterhead for personal use.

For the edification of the general public, FOS reports that for reasons independent of the will of the federation's executive committee, (Marcelin) is no longer a member of the executive committee nor is (Francois), who was a member of the federation's support personnel. Consequently, FOS reserves the right to initiate legal action against these two men if they continue with their actions.

FOS announces that it will accept responsibility for any initiatives undertaken by (Francois) and (Marcelin), which have nothing to do with FOS, and which they feel are illegal. [sentence as heard]

(Arnold St Vil), (Dacius Louisius), and (Jean Robert Edma) sign for the committee. Five other FOS members also sign the note, which has been seen and approved by (Joseph J. Senat).

Correction to Bazin Comment on Inauguration

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Bazin: Wants Deeds Not Words," published in the 11 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 8:

Column two, paragraph six, line three: ...decreed a fiscal amnesty law under which everyone who owed [taxes] no longer owes. (changing word "debts" to "taxes", deleting word "money")

De la Madrid Praises Relations With U.S.
*PA131456 Mexico City XEW Television Network
in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Feb 88*

[Report by Agustin Granados on statements by President Miguel de la Madrid—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A few hours before his meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, President Miguel de la Madrid said relations between the two countries are developing in a very good communicative atmosphere, adding that this has a lot to do with the goodwill shown by President Reagan.

[De la Madrid] "I think that at this time we have a good level of relations, which permits us to address problems and resolve them. We have achieved much progress in resolving issues and in drawing up mutual cooperation programs in these past years."

De la Madrid said that border cooperation and environmental protection programs have been established in the past years. We have taken our exports to the U.S. market, he said, and we have done something very important: We have refinanced our debt.

[De la Madrid] "This also would not have been possible if the U.S. Government had not worked with the Mexican Government to obtain the cooperation of the U.S. banks, the IMF, and the World Bank, where the United States has great influence."

Referring to drug trafficking, the Mexican president said the fight against it involves national security.

[De la Madrid] "We are allocating important resources to the fight against drug trafficking. More than half of the budget of the Attorney General's Office is allocated to this program. Approximately one-fourth of our Army and large numbers of Navy personnel are also assigned to the fight against drug trafficking."

De la Madrid reiterated that Mexico is the victim of and not responsible for drug trafficking, even though some minor U.S. officials say the opposite.

[De la Madrid] "Some minor officials, probably to justify their incompetence, try to make Mexico the scapegoat in the issue of drug trafficking. For example, the customs head says Mexico is the problem. Well, does he not have customs officers to control and check what passes through the border? Trucks do not become invisible when they cross the border; they are not visible only in Mexico. They cross through U.S. customs, where I imagine there are also defects and corruption."

We, the Mexican president said, have always known how to differentiate between the views of minor officials and those of higher ranking officials. Even President Reagan has acknowledged our efforts to combat drug trafficking, he noted. In conclusion, the Mexican president said:

[De la Madrid] "I would say the atmosphere of our relations is currently at a very good level, and I must acknowledge that Ambassador [to the United States] Pilliod has played a very important role in this improvement over the past year."

Comments on Talks With Reagan
*PA140441 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imeivision
Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 14 Feb 88*

[Report on statements made by President Miguel de la Madrid following his meeting with President Ronald Reagan in Mazatlan, Mexico—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [De la Madrid] "President Ronald Reagan and I met to jointly review—within the framework of cooperation, friendship, and respect—the status of our bilateral relations. We also discussed regional and international matters that have some effect on the development of U.S.-Mexican relations."

Later, Miguel de la Madrid talked about the results of the five previous presidential meetings.

[De la Madrid] "In October 1982, President Reagan and I met for the first time in Tijuana and San Diego. We later met in La Paz, Washington, Mexicali, and Washington again. At those meetings we expressed our decision to maintain frequent contact to promote understanding and cooperation between our peoples. Throughout these 5 years, our respective governments have faced times of change and challenge in international relations. Political tensions and the upsets and problems in the international economy have adversely affected our nations' situations and the already complex relations between our two countries."

The Mexican president also spoke about the improved relations between Mexico and the United States.

[De la Madrid, in progress] "...international have magnified the weight of the asymmetry and thereby the differences in interests, perceptions, and propositions. However, we have not yielded in our intention to continue building—based on a series of similarities—a cooperation that will benefit both countries. Today we can say that at the beginning of 1988, here in Mazatlan, we are witnessing an improvement of our relations and considerable progress in the handling of various points that form part of the bilateral agenda."

Later, President De la Madrid talked about the economic issue.

[De la Madrid] "The results of this effort are evident in matters of so much importance, such as the preservation and improvement of the environment in the border region, where significant progress has been made; cooperation in legal matters that has resulted in the recent signing of an agreement; the extension of an air transportation agreement; financial cooperation to deal with the foreign debt problem, of which the U.S. Government has made positive contributions; cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation that has increasingly been expanded and has yielded positive results. Likewise our governments agreed last November on a number of principles and procedures of consultation regarding trade and investment relations to solve problems and promote new paths of economic cooperation. Despite all this, we cannot disregard the fact that there are issues in our relations in which we must double our efforts of understanding and cooperation."

Later, the Mexican president spoke of the fight Mexico has waged against drug trafficking.

[De la Madrid] "Regarding drug trafficking, we have frequently seen misinformation and a lack of proper information. Certain U.S. sectors do not seem to justly appreciate the efforts and achievements of the Mexican drive against drug trafficking. It would be difficult to find another country that allocates—in terms of percentages—the amount of budget, technical, and human resources from the Attorney General's Office and the Armed Forces that Mexico does. This Pacific port which welcomes us today and shows the progress achieved by Mexicans proves what has been achieved to eradicate the production and trafficking of drugs." [sentence as heard]

The Mexican president told Ronald Reagan of our country's decision to continue its struggle against the production, distribution, and trafficking of drugs.

[De la Madrid] "Mexico emphatically confirms its decision to forcefully fight drug trafficking, a cancer of current societies and a risk to national security."

President Miguel de la Madrid also touched on economics.

[De la Madrid] "In the economic area, we must acknowledge the magnitude of structural changes that have transformed Mexico and in some cases have meant social costs and called for sacrifices from a majority of the population. We must point out that the negative impact of imbalances in the world economy on our economy—instability of financial markets, trade protectionism, inequality of exchanges, among other things—have hurt our growth, production, and employment.

"We notice with special concern the adoption of trade restrictions as a means to tackle—even though only temporarily—problems pertaining to imbalances of monetary, financial, or industry competition.

"Foreign trade is a vital aspect in our efforts to overcome difficulties and recover our economic growth. Mr. Reagan, we are encouraged by your firm position against protectionist pressure that would hurt your country and world trade.

"I must also point out that the foreign debt continues to be one of the greatest obstacles to my country's development. Servicing the debt erodes our country's ability to meet the most pressing needs of society and to continue implementing priority investment programs for the infrastructure and services needed to achieve national progress.

"In this area, we must find new formulas to allow us to adjust our debt service to the ability of debtor countries to pay the servicing, improve growth, and upgrade our standards of living, which have been greatly affected by this long crisis.

"The Mexican Government will continue to face difficult times with realism, a sense of responsibility, and firmness. We will continue to work within a framework of social consensus by maintaining unity and the democratic path.

"Mexico, as other Latin American countries, is intensifying the search for options to develop our peoples not only through structural adjustments, which are undoubtedly needed, but also through new forms of concerted efforts and regional cooperation."

President de la Madrid also briefed Ronald Reagan on the results of a summit of eight Latin American heads of state that took place in Acapulco in November. [De la Madrid] "The presidents of the eight countries, which together have nearly 90 percent of the population, production, and territory of Latin America, agreed to advocate a constructive dialogue with the governments of the world's most industrialized countries to promote effective cooperation leading to appropriate solutions to our problems.

"Such actions include new forms of political and economic relationships that will enrich international cooperation by overcoming confrontations and conflicts and broadening dialogue and concerted efforts.

"In Acapulco, the eight Contadora and Support Group heads of state agreed that peace and stability in Central America are priorities for our governments because not only is the consolidation of democracy and development within an atmosphere of free determination of Central American peoples at stake but also the national interests of our countries.

"We are concerned that violence and instability in the region could deepen serious institutional and social insufficiencies that are rooted in the origin of the conflict. This would jeopardize the national security of

countries such as Mexico and damage its political and economic ties with Central American peoples, to which we are united by geography, history, and a spirit of solidarity."

President de la Madrid commented on the relationship between Mexico and the United States for the remainder of his administration and that of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

[De la Madrid] "I am sure that the time remaining in our respective governments will allow us to increase mutual understanding and equitable cooperation to ensure secure borders and broad and stable exchanges. Let this be the legacy that you and I will bequeath to our people."

"Mr President Ronald Reagan, I reiterate my personal satisfaction for this cordial and constructive meeting. I pray for your happiness with the conviction that this meeting in Mazatlan will contribute to the prosperity of the U.S. and Mexican peoples."

"I ask you, President Reagan, to please convey warm greetings to your wife Nancy Reagan on behalf of my wife and me."

De la Madrid Invites Gorbachev To Visit
PA132031 Mexico City XHTV Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpt] CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has received President Miguel de la Madrid's official invitation to visit our country. Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev says Gorbachev gratefully accepted the invitation:

[Begin recording] I want to announce that CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has received an official invitation to visit Mexico from Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado. Gorbachev has gratefully accepted this invitation. At present, however, we cannot say when he will be able to make this visit, as it will depend on both leaders' schedules. We have not started direct diplomatic talks on a firm date for Gorbachev's official visit, but I definitely know he wants to visit Mexico. [end recording] [passage omitted]

New Mass Organization Fights Economic Pact
PA122132 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish
7 Feb 88 p 5

[Article by Jose Segura Garcia]

[Text] The National Front of Mass Organizations was established yesterday to fight the Economic Solidarity Pact, high cost of living, and repression; and to insist on salary increases, trade union democracy, housing for the people, and better farming parity prices.

During the meeting held at a local theater, members of the new organization demanded the release of 413 political prisoners and 500 detained for various reasons. They also demanded respect for human rights.

The National Front of Mass Organizations comprises urban settlers, workers, peasants, government workers, street vendors, and students. Scheduled protests were announced as follows: 8 February, a celebration of International Women's Day; 9 February, a nationwide university strike; 11 February, staggered strikes and an indefinite strike at the Chiapas stadium; 12 February, a march to back the sitdown strike of the Mexican Social Security Institute workers [IMSS]; 15 February, a march to support the strike by the country's universities; and 18 February, participation in marches, meetings, and the takeover and blocking of roads.

The front also announced a countrywide struggle in favor of the National Coordinating Board of Education Workers (CNTE); a 10 April commemoration of the May Day march; and protest acts on 10 June and 2 October.

Two solidarity events stand out: the 9 February university march and the 19 February march backing IMSS workers.

Representatives of CNTE, Conamup [Popular Urban Movement National Coordinating Board], the Ayala Plan National Coordinating Board (CNPA), the Emiliano Zapata Revolutionary People's Union (UPREZ), the Homeless Coordinating Board, five splinter groups of the SARH [Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources] and UGOCEM [General Union of Workers and Peasants of Mexico] trade unions, and striking universities—the promoters of the new National Front of Mass Organizations—said their group's aim is "to unite, organize, and mobilize the country's working population."

Briefs

Drug Seizure, Arrests

Federal Judicial Police have captured suspected drug traffickers, seized 11 tons of marijuana, and seized high-caliber weapons. Ring leader Ramon Chavez Alvarez, who was planning to transport drugs to the United States in exchange for firearms for a Colombian drug-trafficking network, was captured in Guadalajara. Luis Alfonso Chavez Montelongo, Dimas Noriega, and six Colombian criminals apparently linked to the Medellin mafia were also arrested. In Agua Prieta, Sonora, police arrested 4 drug traffickers, and seized 100 AK-47 rifles; 5 AR-15 rifles; 90 bayonets; 3 infrared telescopic sights; a launch; and 5 ground vehicles. [Summary] [Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88 PA]

El Salvador

FMLN Leaders 'Believed' Killed in Clash *PA151820 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA* *in Spanish 15 Feb 88 p 3*

[Text] It is believed that terrorist leaders Ferman Cienfuegos and Leonel Gonzalez have been killed in a clash in El Pepeto Canton, Arcatao jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department.

The incident took place last weekend when forces of Military Detachment No 1 were operating in that area.

The bodies of two of several dead terrorists had facial features, height, and weight that are similar to those of rebel leaders Leonel Gonzalez and Ferman Cienfuegos.

Sources in the Armed Forces high command were consulted yesterday and said it cannot be determined whether the bodies were those of the aforementioned subversive chiefs.

They explained that the terrorist leaders have rarely participated in battles, and that accordingly it cannot be confirmed with certainty that the rumors concerning the deaths are true.

As Coprefa has reported, in the last few days, the FMLN-FDR terrorists have suffered more than 50 killed and many wounded in the fighting.

Members of Military Detachment No 1 of Chalatenango confiscated weapons, ammunition, bombs, and materials for manufacturing explosive devices.

They also confiscated food, medicine, and many military supplies that the extremists abandoned when they withdrew.

FMLN Denies Deaths

PA160204 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish
to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN on 15 February 1988; place not given]

[Text] We report the following to the Salvadoran people and to the local and international press:

1. The report issued by the Armed Forces high command concerning the alleged deaths of Commanders Facundo Guardado [as heard] and Ferman Cienfuegos in an alleged firefight in Arcatao, Chalatenango Department is totally false.

2. As we reported in a communique dated 13 February 1988, Coprefa is engaged in a disinformation campaign involving alleged battles in which it reports invented FMLN casualties that are totally false.

These false reports, such as the one concerning the alleged deaths of Commanders Guardado and Cienfuegos, are part of this campaign, which is aimed at boosting the morale of the demoralized troops and officers of the puppet Army, in view of the advance of our revolutionary army. The lies of Coprefa are but one more example of the Army's critical situation and its inability to achieve victory on the battlefield.

FMLN

February 15, 1988

4 Bombings Reported in Capital 11 Feb *PA121518 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL* *in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 88*

[Text] Yesterday, at approximately 2000, four bombs exploded in various areas of the capital. As YSKL has already reported, one bomb exploded in the Agua Caliente sector, on the old road to Soyapango, near the CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] plant. Another bomb exploded in Galantiche, near the Sheraton Hotel. This explosion caused concern among the guards in the area around the Central Electoral Council. A third bomb exploded at about the same time as the second on Army Boulevard near the Adoc factory. The fourth bomb also exploded on Army Boulevard, near Arco Ingenieros.

As a result of the explosions, four light poles were downed and a large area of San Salvador was left without electricity. The Soyapango area was without power most of the night.

At this point, we do not know whether electricity has been restored to Soyapango, which was left in darkness. Neighborhoods around Soyapango were also left without power.

YSKL reported this last evening when the bombs, which were probably planted by urban commandos of the FMLN, exploded. As we have reported, FMLN commandos yesterday morning placed bombs at a health brigade center, near 13th South Avenue. Those explosions damaged some vehicles. The FMLN said those bombs were targeted at vehicles that the Christian Democratic Party uses in its political campaigns.

Honduras

Homemade Bomb Found on Base With U.S. Forces *PA151630 Paris AFP in Spanish 1546 GMT 15 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 15 Feb (AFP)—Correspondents in the area of the Palmerola base have reported that a homemade bomb was found inside that base, where U.S. troops are stationed. The bomb had been deactivated because its detonator had fallen off.

The bomb was attached to the right fender of a car owned by the laundry manager, whose name is Poll. It was detected during a routine check of the parking lot. Trained dogs were used during the search.

Base officials believe the bomb was placed under the right fender while the car was parked at Poll's home, and that the detonator fell off during the drive to the base.

As a precautionary measure, the office of the base commander suspended all weekend passes for U.S. personnel. [passage omitted]

U.S. Citizen Held for Posing as DEA Agent
PA122006 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Police reported today that they arrested U.S. citizen David Paul More at the beginning of the week on charges of impersonating a DEA agent.

More's arrest took place in San Pedro Sula, 253 km to the north of Tegucigalpa, after a brawl in which he injured another U.S. citizen, whose identity was not given and who is presently in the hospital.

Police sources did not provide More's age or origin, nor did they note the date of his arrival in Honduras or the schedule of activities he reported upon his arrival.

According to a police spokesman, More as well as the other U. S. citizen, now hospitalized, will be thoroughly questioned. They will later be turned over to immigration officials.

Nicaragua

Ortega Comments on New Economic Measures
PA161306 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Feb 88 p 3

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega on new economic measures; date, place of speech not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Since 19 July 1979, we have been constructing this new society of free men, as Sandino dreamed. Our dreams and hopes have directly conflicted with the policy of hatred by the U.S. rulers, who have attempted to deny Nicaraguans the right to live.

Since January 1981 the present U.S. Administration, presided over by Ronald Reagan, has been characterized by its contempt for Nicaraguans' lives, international law, and the U.S. laws themselves.

Our supply of food has been cut off; our ports have been mined; our fuel storage tanks in Puerto Corinto and many bridges in various parts of the country have been blown up; an economic embargo has been established

against us; and our children, youths, women, and peasants, all of them belonging to the humble working class, have been systematically murdered. These are all deep wounds that the state terrorism practiced by the U.S. Government has inflicted on our country. More than 50,000 Nicaraguans have died, victims of this genocide, and the economic losses to our economy are estimated at \$3.8 billion. This is the tragic sequel the U.S. aggression has brought us to date.

These events are not new in the history of Nicaragua. Nicaraguans have, however, always responded resolutely to imperialist aggressions, even under the most trying circumstances. Just recall the bravery with which a people who did not hold power expelled Walker and his bands of filibusterers 100 years ago. This very same people, also not in power at the time, confronted and resisted the U.S. military occupation in 1912, and years later, and they hoisted the red and black flag with Sandino's small army of peasants to defend the dignity of the fatherland that the traitors and renegades had already sold out.

This people made up of workers, peasants, artisans, intellectuals, technicians, and professionals, fed up with Somozism, capitalism, and imperialism; this people for so many long years exploited, humiliated, and attacked, raised their fists. Their battle cry, picked up by the Sandinist Front, led to total victory on 19 July 1979.

We have won, then, the right to begin building, for the first time in our history, a just, democratic society, in an independent, sovereign country.

From this lengthy history of heroism and struggle that ended with the workers taking power, we have obtained the necessary energy to withstand, confront, and defeat the aggressive actions of U.S. imperialism, time and again.

These moral reserves were inherited by Andres Castro, Leon, Sandino, Rigoberto, Carlos, and the thousands of brothers, heroes, and martyrs along with an inexhaustible river of energy that nourishes our fighting spirit and our resistance. There are new phases of heroism and sacrifice. But now, with power definitely in the hands of the people, we have been building this fatherland, which we want to see full of schools, health centers, cooperatives, roads, housing, and food; full of life. However, how many lives have been lost; how many cooperatives burned; how many means of transportation destroyed; how many schools, health centers, child development centers, and food storage centers destroyed? We need spare parts, food, transportation, oil—basic goods—to meet the just demands of all the Nicaraguan people.

Problems multiply, but the determination of peasants to rebuild the cooperatives that have been destroyed is even stronger. The determination of workers to keep production up even without raw materials gets even stronger. The creativity and ingenuity of the innovators gets

stronger. All of us defend the economy with the same firmness with which we defend—politically, militarily, and diplomatically—the rights we have conquered for each of us.

Nicaraguan brothers: Reagan and his mercenaries have repeatedly tried to destroy the people's economy and kill our fighting spirit. The inflation, shortages, and limitations our economy has been suffering have already led us to establish economic policies and measures to protect our economy. As the result of this crisis, in 1985 we implemented a number of measures to stimulate production. In the first place, we intended to protect the production of food, basic goods, export products, and those items that deal with the defense of the revolution.

These measures demanded stimulus for the productive sector, ensuring the [cost of the] basic basket [of staples] for the formal sector workers, greater discipline from all labor forces, greater and better organization of our productive enterprises, greater production yield, better utilization of the little foreign exchange available, reorganization of investments, lower public expenditures, the creation of territorial supply and production center networks, and struggle against speculators, among other actions we defined at the time.

These measures were adjusted in 1986 and 1987. Despite the special effort by the productive sector workers and the private sectors who have always worked efficiently and patriotically, and despite the efforts of technicians, professionals, and enterprise managers, inflation continued to increase, seriously damaging the productive sector and, particularly, the formal sector workers.

This is because the war had not and has not ended. Just as we have defended the revolution militarily with firmness and courage and waged political and diplomatic battles on the domestic political front, establishing a broad democratic opening in the midst of war and aggression and testing the revolution's strength, we must act today with full responsibility and energy that you people demand to wage this battle on better terms to protect our economy.

The economic measures we applied from 1985 to 1987 have been exhausted. We must take fresh actions to better face this crisis. These actions are to be decided and planned by the masses. In this way, the attempts of imperialists, mercenaries, and turncoats can crash once more against the tenacity, belligerence, and combativeness of the working people.

Nicaraguan brothers, consequently, a full monetary reform will be implemented as of Monday, 15 February. This means we will change the present currency. This is to say, we will exchange the old currency for a new one, which we will call the new cordoba. A new cordoba will be worth 1,000 times more than an old one. For each 1,000 old cordobas we hand in at the time we exchange the currency we will get 1 new cordoba. In addition, 10

new cordobas will be equivalent to \$1. This currency exchange shall be carried out simultaneously throughout the country over the next 3 days, from Monday, 15 February, to Wednesday, 17 February.

This current exchange operation is complex. Furthermore, it required the utmost security and secrecy so that the enemies of the people would not know of it, so that the speculators would not know of it, so that the CIA would not learn about it, so that all those accomplices of foreign intervention would not learn about it. We have long been preparing this operation, which we call martyrs of Quilali in tribute to the brothers who were killed recently by Reagan's mercenary bands in Quilali. During past weeks, until reaching this final phase, more than 60,000 workers have participated and been involved. This has been the people's best kept secret; therefore, it could not be discovered by the CIA agents.

With the implementation of this measure, the type of exchange will be solely for exports and imports. For the currency exchange operation all of you will have the opportunity to change your money in the approximately 2,000 exchange places throughout the country, which have been announced in each region. Therefore, it is organized; it is duly prepared. Those who have obtained their money legally—the workers, the peasants, the lawful merchants, the heads of households, the men or women who work on their own—have nothing to worry about. For those who have money in banks, in savings deposits, that money in the bank and in savings accounts will automatically become new money, without there being any need to make any transactions. And in recognition of the confidence they have shown in the monetary system, their money will be revaluated. Those who have cash may change up to 10 million old cordobas for new ones immediately, beginning Monday.

In other words, whoever turns in 1 million old cordobas will immediately be given 1,000 new cordobas. Whoever takes 10 million old cordobas will receive 10,000 new cordobas. Those who have more than 10 million old cordobas will receive immediately 10,000 new cordobas and the difference will be left deposited temporarily in the bank. Subsequently, it will be placed at their disposal in the sum equivalent to new cordobas. By circulating the new cordoba, we are readjusting salaries up to five times more than their value at the end of 1987. And at the same time we are readjusting the prices of products, goods, and services. We are giving work its real value, we are giving products their real value, we are giving services their true value. We are radically diminishing the large amount of money that was in circulation and that signified an enormous inflationary pressure. We are making an effort to balance the level of spending and the level of available financial resources. We are revaluating the official price of our foreign exchange. We are revaluating the value of the agrarian reform bonds and the debt contracted by the government to buy cattle and farmland that has been turned over to the peasants. We are protecting the formal sector of the economy and

returning to the salaried worker part of the buying power that he lost during these years of inflation. And we will pay off harvests using the international market price as reference.

This obliges everyone to make greater efforts to produce more efficiently, with more discipline and more awareness. We are all obliged to defend these measures, to ensure respect for the new prices. No one in this country, none of you Nicaraguan brothers, must yield to the pressure of the speculators. And we must all demand belligerently that the new price and wage scales be respected.

In these circumstances, we have also decided to issue a law to write off the debt of 20,997 families who have debts with the Housing Bank of Nicaragua in the form of loans given them to buy homes; to repair homes; or to improve, refurbish, or furnish homes in keeping with the bank's program of repairing homes damaged during the war of liberation in populous neighborhoods. As of today, these 20,997 families will no longer have to pay the Housing Bank. And those who do not have their land deeds yet will receive them by the month of April at the latest. This measure benefits 880 families of Region 1; 1,527 families in Region 2, including those who live in Agateipe and 23 de Julio neighborhoods; 15,587 families in Region 3, including those who live in Managua, Tenderil, Nicrao, Francisco Morazan, 14 de Septiembre, Maximo Guerrero, 1 de Mayo, Unidad de Proposito, 9 de Julio, Abel Gutierrez, Villa Progreso, Villa San Jacinto, Villa Sol de Libertad, America Numero 1, Villa Benito Escobar, America Numero 2, Villa Revolucion, America Numero 3, Villa Venezuela, America Numero 4 de las Sabanas, Villa Ruben Dario, Villa Libertad, Villa Fraternidad, Villa San Martin, Colonia Centro America, Heroes y Martires de Bocay, Villa Don Bosco, Maestro Aurelio, 10 de Julio pilot project, Villa Colombia, Villa Rafael Herrera, and Tristan Perez.

In Region 5, 400 families will receive basic housing units; in Region 6, 1,600 families will receive basic housing units and 81 houses in Via (?Solidal); in the Northern Atlantic autonomous region, 250 basic housing units; in the Southern Atlantic autonomous region, 100 basic housing units and 25 houses in the 12 February suburb; and in Special Zone 3, 50 basic housing units.

The decrees for all these measures will be given by this radio network in the following hours. We will also provide more detailed information and further explanations of the series of measures we are enacting today.

We have taken these measures with the same conviction and optimism with which we marched toward the final rebellion that killed Somozism. At that time, the turncoats, the hesitators, and the traitors—distrusting the inexhaustible power of the masses—met in Caracas,

Venezuela to discuss shady agreements with Somozist Guards, capitalists, and imperialism. We have made this decision with the certainty of having historical justice on our side.

Nicaraguan brothers: As that heroic Quilali, where peasants continue working in the midst of criminal ambush and terrorist attacks, we will successfully wage this new campaign, one that makes all our territory and all our will a trench which we will never leave nor surrender. In this great battle to defend popular and national interests, we once again call on the patriotism of all Nicaraguans, including those who have taken sectarian stands to join forces with foreign aggression. We call on them to abandon their sectarianism and to join this national effort that rests on the heroism of the soldiers of the EPS and the Ministry of Interior; on the heroism of the peasants who defend their land with a rifle in their hands in the war zones; on the heroism of workers, technicians, and professionals who give their strength and energy in the war zones; on the heroism of Nicaraguan women; on the heroism of all our society, of workers in this fatherland who work patriotically; and on the heroism of our peasants and workers who are at the center of our fatherland and the revolution. For peace with dignity, free fatherland or death. [applause]

Transport Minister on Policies

PA151730 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
2316 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Speech by Minister of Transportation William Ramirez; place not given—live]

[Text] Good afternoon. We want to announce that to facilitate passenger transportation throughout the country, this afternoon we met with all transportation workers organized in cooperatives, those who work individually, and the state enterprises that handle transportation. We reached a joint agreement that public ground transportation throughout the country will be absolutely free on 15, 16, and 17 February. Since the Ministry of Transportation has established control points throughout the country, and there is coordination between all transportation workers organized in cooperatives, those who work individually, and state enterprises, they will report the trips their vehicles make and present their fuel bills—either gasoline or diesel—to offices of the Ministry of Transportation. The central government, through the Ministry of Transportation, will pay the costs of the transportation sectors in mobilizing our people. This is so everyone will have an opportunity to go to the exchange points and move from one place to another as easily as possible.

Because airline tickets are sold locally for cordobas, tomorrow there will only be transportation in the afternoon, so that tickets will be purchased with the new cordobas. Because some tickets for water transportation have already been sold, others can also be purchased with the new currency, particularly the tickets to the

Atlantic coast region and for Lake Nicaragua. As for freight transportation, tomorrow morning there will probably be a waiting period. We believe the situation will be normal by the afternoon.

When we met today with the transportation sector workers—and I am saying this to alert the comrades in the regions, in Petronic [Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise], and in the Ministry of Transportation—we announced that fuel is being sold today specifically in Esteli for 12,500 cordobas [amount of fuel not given]. Therefore, it is important that regional authorities throughout all regions pay close attention to this, so that it does not become a complicated situation and so there will be some control over it.

The new transportation prices in the new cordobas will be announced on Tuesday. All air and land transportation rates are prepared, as are freight rates for dry and liquid merchandise, as well as air transportation rates. These were some of the problems we had in beginning to collect tomorrow—as long as the new transportation rates are not announced, these cannot be applied, because people would not know what a transportation ticket costs.

As for enterprises that sell spare parts for automobiles, these will be closed on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. This is so they can update their inventories and align the old prices to the new prices, so that by Thursday they will open with prices set in new cordobas.

These are the measures we wanted to announce in this radio and television broadcast, so that our people will be alert and completely aware of how the transportation sector will operate within the next few days.

President on Economic Issues, U.S. Policy
PA150156 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1644 GMT 14 Feb 88

["Excerpt" of interview with President Daniel Ortega by unidentified journalists from Mexico's NOTIMEX and Imevision; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and U.S. President Ronald Reagan will meet in Mazatlan tomorrow. Central America will obviously be one of the important points in their discussions. What does Nicaragua expect from this historic meeting?

[Ortega] Mexico's position on Central America is well known. As a member of the Group of Eight and as site of the meeting held in Acapulco, it will surely have the opportunity to express the position of Mexico and Latin America on the Central American problem. In other words, it will express the position of the need for respect for self-determination—a basic principle Mexico has defended—and the urgent need for a political solution of the Central American conflict.

[Reporter] A few hours before this meeting, President Reagan made some statements to NOTIMEX. He said the Sandinist government system is not compatible, that it cannot peacefully coexist, with its neighbors in the region. What is your opinion of the views expressed by President Reagan and what are the possibilities of seeking a normalization of relations with the United States?

[Ortega] Well, it is really a groundless and arbitrary opinion because first of all, those who must determine whether they can coexist with Nicaragua are Nicaragua's neighbors. I think the position of Nicaragua's neighbors, in other words, the Central American countries, was made very clear when we all decided to sign the 7 August agreements and to ratify them on 16 January in Costa Rica. Therefore, the five Central American countries have expressed their willingness to work for democracy and peace in the Central American region. There is a mutual recognition of the [words indistinct] of the governments established in the Central American region. President Reagan's interpretation clashes with the interpretation of the Central Americans; therefore, it is groundless.

[Reporter] The United States has great and decisive influence in the region. How can the Esquipulas accords be carried out without the consent and support of the United States? How can you five countries peacefully coexist if some of you are seen as a [word indistinct] ideological enemy?

[Ortega] Well, I think experience is showing it is possible to advance. This is possible because the Central American people are willing to advance toward a peaceful solution. There is Latin American support. There is support from the entire international community. There is support from the EEC. This explains why the Central Americans—defending their own policy despite the U.S. Government's desires and despite the great influence that the United States exerts in the region—signed an agreement on 7 August and ratified it on 16 January. There are great expectations as well as strong pressures from the United States. President Reagan sent General Powell to directly exert pressure on the Central American governments to see if he could get some Central American government to refrain from going to the San Jose meeting. However, everyone attended the meeting and we ratified the 7 August agreements and expressed our willingness to continue the discussion of the peace plan. In other words, the Central American governments ratified an independent policy against the U.S. position, which does not view the Esquipulas peace plan favorably.

[Reporter] Why doesn't the United States view the plan favorably if there is a global atmosphere of negotiations? President Reagan is talking with Gorbachev, there are talks in Afghanistan, and in general there is a climate of detente. Why is there this dangerous situation between Nicaragua and the United States?

[Ortega] The United States refuses to give up what has been its traditional policy toward Nicaragua, Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In other words, not only the Nicaraguan issue is at stake when the United States and President Reagan insist on their policy of force against Nicaragua; the future of U.S.-Latin American relations is at stake. The United States does not want to accept that the time has come to establish a new type of relations with Latin America, the Caribbean, Central America, and Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Mr President, what can you do? What can you offer to the U.S. Government? There has been a vote which is contrary to President Reagan's interests. We can say this is an encouraging sign. What can you offer the United States so that it will normalize its relations with you? What more can you do? What can you specifically offer the Reagan administration?

[Ortega] I do not think we can do more than we have already done because what we have done involves the interests of the Nicaraguan revolution, the democratic process we have been building in Nicaragua since 19 July 1979. What we can discuss with the United States—and I stated this to President Reagan in the letter I sent him—is the issue of security because they argue that there are security concerns in their relations with Nicaragua, saying that Nicaragua is a threat to U.S. security. If the United States is really concerned about security, because the United States considers that Nicaragua is a threat, then let us discuss this, let us begin a dialogue to talk about security matters and attain verifiable agreements. Nicaragua is willing to do this, to discuss verifiable agreements.

This is a position shared with the international community and even by the USSR, as Mr Gorbachev visited the United States on 22 December to sign an agreement [words indistinct] with President Reagan [words indistinct] and both supported the Central American efforts to attain peace and the agreements that have been signed to this effect. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] On the subject of discussing security, would you, for example, be willing to give up Soviet military aid or withdraw foreign advisers from Nicaragua? What concrete proposals would you present to ease the concerns of groups within the United States opposed to this foreign policy?

[Ortega] What would be concrete would be for the United States to respect Central America's will. Central Americans want the region to be free of all foreign military presence. This is a very healthy principle to make the area neutral and free of foreign interference. [Words indistinct], the foreign militaries must leave the region, military exercises with foreign troops must not be held in the region [words indistinct]. This would be a commitment to be kept by all Central America. This would be our proposal and we are willing to start working in this direction. We have been discussing these

subjects at Contadora; subjects that have to do with increasing security and with the presence of foreign troops in Central America. We would also be willing to discuss [words indistinct] in Latin America; something that could be called the search for a reasonable, balanced agreement. [Words indistinct] the Central American countries with the Contadora Group's support are working toward attaining solutions to the security and military problems. However, we believe this subject must be discussed bilaterally between the United States and Nicaragua as the U.S. position on this subject basically concerns Nicaragua.

[Reporter] The United States insists that you are a threat to its national security. Do you believe that you pose such a threat in any manner?

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] is a pretext of the U.S. Administration. Really, the Nicaraguan revolution could only be a threat to the United States by being an example of a country [words indistinct] that has decided to defend its self-determination and independence. Having liberty and sovereignty enables us to attain this. So we are a good example for Central American countries, a good example for the Latin American and Caribbean countries, and a bad example for what the United States fears to accept: the maintenance of respectful relations with Latin American countries. The United States prefers to continue defending the Monroe doctrine.

[Reporter] Within this framework, Mr President, Presidents Cerezo, Duarte, and Azcona have stated that peace will not be attained without democracy in Nicaragua. They say that Nicaragua is a sanctuary for subversion. They believe Nicaragua cannot live without expanding and exporting its revolution. What do you think of those statements? In other words, how can these obstacles be eliminated to achieve peaceful coexistence?

[Ortega] I have heard President Duarte making those statements. I even discussed his belief with him at our meetings in Guatemala and Costa Rica. I have not heard Presidents Cerezo and Azcona making such statements. I have heard President Azcona make that kind of statement. [sentences as heard]

I would say that sometimes the Central American presidents deliver one speech that responds to U.S. pressures and another one, a more pragmatic and realistic one, that proves they are convinced Nicaragua is not a threat to Central American security. Furthermore, these speeches prove there has been a democratic opening in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, thanks to the Nicaraguan revolution. The area presidents are convinced of this. They know that without a Nicaraguan revolution, militarymen would still be governing Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. The Nicaraguan revolution opened democratic possibilities in Central America.

We are walking toward democracy in various ways. All the region's countries are facing limitations. The International Verification and Follow-Up Commission's report is very important in this regard, because it clearly highlights several deficiencies in certain Central American countries that consider themselves very democratic nations. Those deficiencies deal with the exercise of democracy itself, for example, human rights violations, violations of public freedoms and labor rights, etc. All this was clearly stated in that report. The report informed us and highlighted the Central American efforts and struggle to open democratic possibilities, which have been created despite the region's prevailing forces: the military and oligarchic sectors and extreme rightist groups, which oppose democratic openings.

[Reporter] Do you feel you have signed a blank check? On the one hand, you have made a number of concessions; on the other hand, the work of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission has been practically dismantled. Salvadoran Presidency Minister Carlos Lopez Nuila and President Duarte said Central America had to bid the commission farewell, because it completed its work. They further said the Contadora Group had also completed its work. Therefore, do you feel your concessions are more like a blank check?

[Ortega] Well, we have not made any concessions at all. We did not accept that position at the meeting in Costa Rica. President Arias did not agree with that position either. The San Jose declaration clearly states that the Central American foreign ministers will have to form a verification mechanism. We believe that the logical thing to do is to form the international verification and follow-up commission again and include the Contadora and Support Groups, the OAS, the United Nations, and the five Central American countries. Nicaragua will defend this position at the upcoming meeting in El Salvador on the 17th [not further specified]. Now we even have the possibility of adding European countries and Canada to the security verification mechanism. The various national reconciliation commissions and governments will be in charge of the internal affairs. There is still a possibility [espacio abierto] in the agreements we signed in San Jose on 16 January and it leads to the formation of the verification commission. Obviously, Central America must be part of that verification commission. The Contadora and Support Groups must be members of that commission as well. We did not give them up. [Words indistinct] easy for them to work.

[Reporter] Mr President, there is a Mexican saying that goes: Don't give wings to scorpions. In view of Nicaragua's internal situation, don't you think that to a certain extent Esquipulas has created conditions providing too much political participation [espacio politico] to an opposition that is radically anti-Sandinist? Don't you think this could undermine the government's support and the roots of the revolutionary process?

[Ortega] We run that risk, we run that risk [repeats himself], but I trust the irreversibility of the process, because it has massive popular support, and this political participation [espacio abierto], which I agree does not match the war situation we are facing, aims at attaining a larger goal, which is peace. The United States has an opportunity to do its job and try to [words indistinct] Nicaragua using the media, local political parties, and labor unions. However, I believe that regardless of all the resources it uses, the United States must face the Nicaraguan people's strong political position and awareness, which will not allow the United States to undermine the basis of the revolution.

[Reporter] When you started the revolution, you had a totally different idea of what would be happening now, didn't you?

[Ortega] When we started the revolution our proposal was to create a government in tune with our social and economic realities and in tune with the Latin American and Caribbean realities; that is, based on the principle of nonalignment. We did not establish the principle of nonalignment after the triumph of the revolution. Instead, we established it before the triumph of the revolution in the program which the FSLN proposed in October 1978.

What we did not foresee was that we would have such a strong or prolonged confrontation with the United States. The direct confrontation with the United States has been going on for 8 years. That is what we (?did not foresee), nor did we foresee that (?that country) would affect the process of consolidating this pluralist regime because the political [words indistinct] is based on Nicaragua's situation. They try to reject the revolutionary process because it is not [words indistinct] U.S. policies.

That is the [words indistinct] they are creating for us, that is, U.S. policies against Nicaragua.

[Reporter] How would you summarize the principles guiding Nicaragua's actions in Contadora and Esquipulas? What is your strategic objective: Stop the war or decrease its intensity? Or, what is your basic goal?

[Ortega] First, Nicaragua feels it is defending the interests of developing countries. Why is it that a developing country that achieves self-determination and independence comes under attack by the imperialists, [words indistinct] the United States. Therefore, we are defending the interests of these countries. The Latin American countries have acted in the Contadora and Support Groups to defend their interests. The purpose is to defend those basic principles of independence. What is happening today in Nicaragua can happen tomorrow in any other Latin American or Caribbean nation. [Words indistinct] a policy of terrorism, death, aggression, or intervention against any other Latin American countries

the United States does not like. They could do that if what they are doing now against Nicaragua is accepted. Therefore, this explains (?the existence of the Contadora and Support Groups.)

Let us say that common interests are at stake here. It is not only a matter of Nicaragua's interests; it is not a matter of coming to Nicaragua's rescue—it is a matter of rescuing principles that rule the relations among states or that should regulate the relations among nations. These principles are based on respect for international law. As far as we are concerned, there is something very basic in preserving the independence of states, no matter how small they are. Therefore, this is what is at stake. Logically, peace constitutes an important element. As long as the United States continues its policy of war against Nicaragua, it is not agreeing to respect international principles and is not agreeing to respect international law and the right of the peoples to self-determination. The United States is not (?respecting) it. When peace is achieved, the United States will have to respect those principles.

[Reporter] Mr President, those of us who have closely followed the negotiations within the framework of Esquipulas and the Contadora Group have watched with surprise the changes taking place in Nicaragua. First it was said there would not be a dialogue with the contras and later a dialogue was established. A political agreement was reached as well as an agreement regarding a cease-fire. [sentence as heard] Do you foresee the possibility of a political dialogue with the counterrevolutionaries? Also, what possibilities do you think exist for reaching a specific cease-fire agreement with the counterrevolutionaries?

[Ortega] I do not think one can deny that Nicaragua's stance has been coherent. It is not a matter of saying one thing one day and something else the next. Until 7 August 1987, Nicaragua's stance was very clear in terms of not establishing any kind of contact with the counterrevolutionaries and of internally punishing those acting as spokesmen of the aggression against Nicaragua. In fact the newspaper LA PRENSA was closed the day after the U.S. approved \$100 million in aid to the contras. In sum, we adhered to our stance of not yielding to a policy of pressure or blackmail, at a time when there was no option or alternative for a peaceful solution. Once the Central American region became open to a peaceful solution to the conflict with the signing of the Guatemala agreement, Nicaragua began a new phase or moment. This is the situation. We signed the Esquipulas agreement, and because we did, we are obligated to fulfill that agreement. The moment at which we took this or that step has contributed to determining the circumstances.

The Esquipulas agreements are very clear; they are clear and well defined. They do not lend themselves to interpretation. We are not going to stray from this. We are abiding by the agreements and we are going to do all we

can to abide by them without straying from the framework. The agreements clearly call for a cease-fire to allow the groups that have taken up arms to lay down their weapons, accept the amnesty, and accept the democratic and political openings in each of the countries and participate as civic opposition forces if they wish to do so. The talks with the mercenary groups are aimed at convincing them to accept this space or opening the Esquipulas agreements have given them. If this were not the case, we would not be involved in these talks. We will only accept a political dialogue, with their participation, after they have laid down their weapons, accepted the amnesty, and become members of any of the 15 political parties we have in this country. Only in this manner will they be able to participate in the national dialogue we are holding with the civic opposition political parties.

It is important that it be understood all the steps taken by Nicaragua after 7 August have been taken within the framework of the agreements. We are doing everything within the framework of the agreements. We have taken certain steps because they are within the agreements. We did not take these steps before because our political analyses and evaluations proved that the time was not right for this. But we took the steps and they are in accord with the essence of the Nicaraguan revolution. We did not take these steps before because there was no possibility for peace. For the country to be operational, for a democracy to operate properly, there must be peace. The steps we are taking are not a concession we are granting; we are doing this to achieve peace. There was no possibility for achieving peace before 7 August because there were no options for peace. Even though our plan, our principles, and our Constitution speak of a democracy, we could not practice this prior to 7 August because there was no peace option. However, the path that was opened on 7 August gave us the opportunity to prove what the Nicaraguans want. We want democracy, but peace is indispensable for this democracy to be practiced. We are currently testing this effort and determination. We are still being pressured, there is a war going on, and the U.S. policy remains unchanged. President Reagan may change his tune, but the words are still the same.

[Reporter] How would a substantial change in U.S. policy affect the war? How do you think the Democrats will vote? What will Nicaragua accept?

[Ortega] We are still going to be pressured by the U.S. Government. The U.S. Congress is (?preparing for elections) and President Reagan is accusing the Congress of delivering Nicaragua to totalitarianism and communism. He is trying to frighten the U.S. Congress. We need a vote that will change the current situation. The so-called humanitarian aid will be under great pressure in the next few weeks. There will be a group that will demand the aid within the framework of the Esquipulas agreements. Humanitarian aid is needed to settle or resettle those groups that have accepted the process; groups that have accepted the amnesty and have put

down their weapons. Yet President Reagan is seeking approval for what he calls humanitarian aid that is nothing more than logistical aid through the CIA for those groups making war against the legitimate Nicaraguan Government.

[Reporter] Would you agree to the type of humanitarian aid that will be given to those who have accepted the amnesty?

[Ortega] Yes. Esquipulas states that the humanitarian aid should be for those who accept the cease-fire, lay down their weapons, and accept the amnesty. This humanitarian aid should be distributed by the humanitarian organizations.

[Reporter] Then there should be no humanitarian aid for those groups that are still involved in negotiations?

[Ortega] No, they should not be included. Giving them humanitarian aid would be the same as throwing more wood on the fire.

[Reporter] Mr President, regarding the economic situation, it is said that the Nicaraguan situation is very difficult. It is said there are many power outages and a problem obtaining supplies. How can a sovereign and independent plan be developed amid this tremendous economic crisis?

[Ortega] We are experiencing a phase that we could call the phase for the defense of the revolutionary process. At this moment we cannot (?think) about the development and stability of our economy because we are defending the people's power from a foreign war.

We are currently experiencing a war, a confrontation, and our economy is a survival economy. There are very big problems, as you have said. This situation makes it difficult and costly for the Nicaraguan people to defend this process. But in the long run the process is being defended. There is a future for the process. The people are determined to shed their blood to defend this process.

[Reporter] Do you fear that Esquipulas will be used to set a political ambush against the Nicaraguan revolutionary process?

[Ortega] We run that risk, but the truth is that the Nicaraguan people are the only ones who can decide whether they will allow an agreement, such as the Esquipulas agreement, to turn against their own interests.

[Reporter] What role can international cooperation play in overcoming the crisis? How can the international community help?

[Ortega] I feel that international cooperation, especially at the Latin American level, can be of great help for Central America. I think that Latin America can help

serve as a buffer for Central America and help us overcome our domestic problems in the same way that the Contadora and Support groups have done. When the eight presidents met in Acapulco they said economic and political cooperation could contribute to helping those Central American countries that are very dependent to become more independent. They felt that if these countries expanded their trade, their economic relations, and their cooperation, their situation could become stronger. At this moment, European and Canadian aid is also very important and decisive for the future of the Central American peoples. This would also help Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Reporter] Lastly, Mr President, in the past 3 years Mexico and Latin America have played a very active role in Central America. As you mentioned earlier, Central American and Latin American interests are at stake. What role do you think Mexico should play during these critical months when we are finding out whether Esquipulas is truly a mechanism for peace?

[Ortega] I do not wish to tell Mexico what it should do. I have to state that Mexico has played a very important role in the defense of the sacred principles of independence and self-determination. I think it should continue to do this.

Ortega Addresses C. American Economy Ministers
PA130130 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
2310 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua on the occasion of the meeting of Central American economy ministers and deputy ministers; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ...for the Central American peoples and according to the document the Central American presidents signed on that occasion. We voiced our willingness there to work for the peace, self-determination, independence, and full democracy of our peoples. This meeting of ministers for Central American economic integration and regional development complements one of the basic efforts we believe had to be made to ensure peace in Central America.

During our conversations and meetings in Guatemala in August, and during the recent talks the Central American presidents held on 15 and 16 January in San Jose, Costa Rica, we once again noted it was important to complement these peace efforts with action. These actions should not be only political, but also actions that seek Central American economic integration and international cooperation to strengthen this effort for Central American integration. In this manner, these actions will contribute to peace and democracy in Central America.

We understand that peace and democracy without economic development and social justice is impossible. We are convinced the deep problems affecting Central

America demand our strong actions. As we said last night, these acts should come from our own resources, our own possibilities, and our own limitations. We must then see what we can do, how we can act so that the economy and the possibilities for development in Central America will not be a utopia, but rather a reality. We also urge those countries interested in contributing toward peace and democracy in Central America to participate through their cooperation in this Central American effort for integration.

Therefore, we believe in the importance of your request to the Contadora and Support Groups—that is, to the Group of Eight that met in Acapulco and favors a Latin Americanist stand for independence, peace, and democracy in Central America—for active participation in the field of economic cooperation, to complement this effort for peace and democracy in Central America. This request will be channeled through the meeting of foreign ministers, which will be held in San Salvador. This call, this observation you are making so that this political willingness will adopt specific actions, is very important in what should be an immediate effort by the Central American states to examine here in Latin America the results of the cooperative efforts that our countries so demand.

Efforts are also being made with the EEC and with the European states that are also interested in contributing to the total implementation of the Esquipulas agreements. They are interested in contributing not only politically, but also in the economic, technical, scientific, trade, food cooperation, and other sectors. Therefore, the proposal that will be taken to the Hamburg meeting is very important due to the current Central American situation.

During the 15 and 16 January meeting in Costa Rica, we were convinced this is a historical, crucial, difficult, and complex moment that demands our greatest efforts, our willingness, and our political determination so that the peace plan will advance and be completely implemented. In that meeting, all the Central American presidents once again committed ourselves to total compliance with the peace plan. According to the report of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission, all of the Central American states have adopted a series of steps and have made progress in honoring the plan, even though there were still some matters pending before 100-percent compliance is attained.

We are convinced that this is the case, that progress has been made, that there is political willingness, that the plan is progressing, and that it will be fully implemented. In view of these circumstances—the Central American governments possess political will—important steps have been taken throughout Central America for the sake of full democracy, independence, and respect for self-determination and sovereignty.

Therefore, at this time, this special effort—emergency assistance for Central America from Latin America, the Group of Eight, the Contadora and Support Groups, the European countries, and the international community we included in the Esquipulas document in August 1987—comes at an opportune time to support this political attempt at peace and democracy.

I repeat, we are completely convinced that if this complementary support is not received, it will be more difficult for us to work toward full democracy and peace in Central America. The Central American governments and peoples possess the will, and now we must incorporate into this effort those who have voiced their willingness to participate. It has already been expressed; for example: the Latin American presidents who met in Acapulco, the EEC, the international community.

Thus, this meeting in Managua of the ministers responsible for Central American economic integration and regional development possesses special significance. This is because we are on the threshold of what may become a peaceful solution to this conflict or a flare-up of violence and a negative outlook for our region. The truth is that room for a peaceful solution, for strengthening the trend toward peace and democracy, has been reduced by those who favor a warmongering trend and a military solution. We must continue striving toward the path that has been opened, and we must continue consolidating it by using our own resources, our own possibilities, our own political willingness, and with the assistance of international cooperation.

I wanted to convey to you the feelings of the Nicaraguan Government and people concerning your efforts. I also wanted to congratulate you for the work that has been accomplished in such a short amount of time, which is the result of the contacts and ties that have been made. There is a true understanding among the Central American countries that unity is necessary for progress. I wanted to greet you and to convey the greetings of the Nicaraguan people so you can take these greetings to the peoples of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica; as well as to your respective governments. Thank you. [applause]

Commander Arce Speaks in Masaya, Praises SMP
PA140259 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1642 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Speech by Bayardo Arce, commander of the revolution and member of the FSLN National Directorate, at Magdalena Plaza in Masaya—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In the coming days, thousands of youths from all parts of the country will return victoriously to their homes after having fulfilled their duty to the fatherland by serving in the Patriotic Military Service [SMP], to fight the aggression imposed on us by the U.S. Government. At the same time, thousands of

youths throughout the country will be leaving to receive proper military training to relieve them in the struggle against the mercenary forces of the Reagan administration.

Here today, thousands of youths have voluntarily gathered to take up the liberating and patriotic rifle of those who during these days will return home, after having fulfilled their patriotic duty. The fact that thousands of youths will return home and that thousands of youths will replace them in the battle trenches hurts the enemies of the Sandinist people's revolution, the enemies of the people's achievements, those who with their barefaced, right-wing policy or their covert pseudoleftist positions pose as spokesmen for U.S. policy and its mercenary forces.

Young cubs, you know that you will go to relieve others who are returning home. You know that you will leave after being properly trained to fight victoriously, as fresh forces, to continue to put an end to the mercenary war imposed on us by the U.S. Government. You know that relieving the people's fighting force is a mortal blow to the plan that is the hope of all those sectors that believed with the aggression of Reagan and his mercenary forces, we were going to return to the past, to the Somozist past of exploitation, to the Somozist past of landless peasants, to the Somozist past that denied education for children of workers and peasants, to the Somozist past where there was an Army that went out at the call of the bosses to quell the demands of the peoples.

And why are they concerned about our relieving our fighting force in this fatherland of Sandino? They are concerned because it is very clear that Reagan's mercenary, counterrevolutionary forces no longer possess the ability to replenish their strength. Now that the U.S. Congress, or a majority of the U.S. Congress, has denied war financing for them, their criminal plan is rapidly headed toward failure. And this failure of their criminal war is only a matter of time. We did not invent this. All of our people learned of the call of the so-called counterrevolutionary leaders, who said that without the aid of the U.S. Congress, they will not be able to maintain their current forces, that they will be forced to return many people to their sanctuaries in Honduras and other neighboring states, because they cannot continue their criminal activities against our people.

And since the allies of the counterrevolution, the servants of the Reagan policy in the country, know this very well, they have been trying in the past weeks and days to weaken the capacity of our Army, of our armed peoples, to prevent us from annihilating the counterrevolutionary forces once and for all. They have dedicated themselves to attacking the mobilization of the SMP, trying to prevent us from maintaining the offensive military capability we have possessed for the past few years.

We are not increasing our strength. What we are doing is relieving those who have fulfilled their military service, to maintain the same offensive capability and to be able to put an end as soon as possible to this situation, which is not to anyone's liking in Nicaragua. This is because none of us has wanted this war. This war has been imposed on us by the leaders of the U.S. Government. They are making great efforts against the SMP. All the right-wing, pseudoleftist policies and all their newspapers and radio stations are trying to grant Reagan time to see how he can obtain illegal resources or other means to continue his criminal acts against our peoples.

Yesterday Reagan said the curtain had not yet come down, that his macabre plan will continue, and that he will find resources to continue to wage war against us. His rightist and pseudoleftist lackeys and servants here seek to undermine our efforts to maintain the same defensive capacity by trying to prevent the SMP from achieving its goals, and from relieving the troops returning home.

Of course, not all of this campaign against the SMP is carried out by saying that they are aiding Reagan's plans. The story is that the Sandinists are enemies of peace. The story is that we Sandinists want indefinite war for the sake of war. They even dare to manipulate matters as serious and as sacred as the Esquipulas II peace accords, claiming we have not complied with them because we are trying to maintain our defensive capability. Nothing could be further from the truth than this argument that we do not want peace, that we want war. Proof of this is that we are seeking ways to reach a cease-fire as required by the Esquipulas agreement, in trying to comply with Esquipulas.

Through talks with the counterrevolutionaries, we are seeking a cease-fire, to have them lay down their arms, to have them rejoin the national civic life. But who are those who are preventing a cease-fire from being reached? The U.S. Government and its mercenary forces are the ones trying to prevent it. They are the ones preventing us from attaining peace and forcing us to remain at war. They are the ones who slowed the talks we had agreed to hold on 10, 11, and 12 February. Yet now they are even threatening to postpone the new date we set to 18 February.

Why do not all of the rightists and pseudoleftists in the country, who claim they do not want war, why do they not demand that the U.S. Government and the mercenary forces comply with the Esquipulas II agreement, go to the talks to reach a cease-fire, lay down their arms, and rejoin political life? Why do they not criticize the United States and the counterrevolution for prolonging the war, and for refusing to negotiate peace according to the signed Esquipulas agreement?

And if they are such good interpreters of Esquipulas and criticize us for not fulfilling the accords, why do they not criticize Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte,

who yesterday stated that the Salvadoran Government will neither before nor after the elections engage in talks with the FMLN-FDR combatants, until they join the democratic process as established by Esquipulas II? Why do they not criticize Duarte, who said he will not hold talks with the guerrillas until they join the democratic process as established by Esquipulas II? Yet they persist in attacking us by saying we have not complied with the Esquipulas agreement. Why do they not criticize Duarte for the death squads that are in action and that are killing youths and children? And it is not us that is saying this. This is being stated by the Salvadoran Catholic Church, through Bishop Msgr Rosa y Chavez. If they truly desired peace, they would be redirecting their criticism.

That is why the FSLN flatly accuses the rightists, the pseudoleftists, and their spokesmen, such as LA PRENSA—which is financed by the U.S. Embassy—of stimulating the war in Nicaragua, of fanning the war in Nicaragua, of sabotaging the peace efforts and the Esquipulas agreement. Hear this well; see how these people are promoting the war. See everything they have done. Do you remember what the rightists demanded prior to the vote by the U.S. Congress? Do you remember what LA PRENSA was filled with? It was full of, and all the rightists' calls were for, amnesty for the counterrevolutionaries. Why did they request the amnesty? Because they were waiting for the U.S. Congress to give the contras more funds to continue the war. Then the mercenaries would have more weapons and more money. What did the mercenaries need to continue the war? They needed combatants. Why? Because the peasants in some areas who were formerly deceived can no longer be recruited. They cannot reinforce their strength. And those whom they kidnapped are no longer kidnapped, because the peasants are now armed with their self-defense cooperatives, and the contras cannot kidnap them.

Where were they going to find the combatants, even if they had more money and more arms? The only way was to get them out of the prisons, and what they demanded was amnesty, because they were waiting for Congress to approve the funds. But their plan and their hopes failed. The majority of the U.S. Congress acted responsibly and cut off aid. Then the press and the rightists forgot about the amnesty. Now they no longer speak of amnesty. Why? Simply because the problem no longer is finding more combatants, because they no longer have the money and weapons for that. Now the problem is to prevent us from annihilating the mercenary forces. Therefore, they no longer request amnesty, but rather ask us not to maintain our fighting capability, to end the SMP, and not to relieve the forces. They would like the thousands of youths returning home not to have anyone relieve them in the battle trenches. Their attack is now against the SMP, and they have forgotten about the amnesty. [passage omitted]

The SMP evaders and deserters commit a crime because there is a military service law. Since they cannot be trusted in combat because they run away, we are not

going to entrust the fighting to them. However, we are at least going to make them work for the patriots, you brave cubs here. Those who do not want to obey the law will be punished with imprisonment. They will work in prison to make the boots and the uniforms that you need to defend the fatherland. [applause] Those who do not want to be imprisoned and who are willing to be mobilized should at least cook for those who are carrying the rifles. [applause] They should be the ones who carry the clothes and the supplies of the combatants until they demonstrate they have stopped being cowards and that they are real cubs to whom we can entrust a rifle, Sandino's rifle, the rifle of Nicaragua's freedom. [passage omitted]

We understand the humble mothers who suffer due to the departure of their sons. The mothers of these 1,000 cubs who are volunteering with their support are here. We know there is a terrible emptiness in their hearts, and we have personally lived through this. Did we not spend years in the mountains with .22-caliber rifles and shotguns fighting the dictatorship? Did not thousands of residents of Monimbo have to go underground to fight with contact bombs and leave their mothers, to defeat Somoza? We know what that sorrow feels like. However, the mothers who are grieving should not let themselves be manipulated by the leaders of the right and the bourgeois who try to pit them against the revolution and the defense of the fatherland. Those mothers should direct their grief and anger against the U.S. Government, the mercenary forces, and the rightwing which does not want peace. Instead of being manipulated and taking to the street to protest because their sons were taken by the social prevention officials, they should go to the U.S. Embassy and demand that the counterrevolutionaries participate in the cease-fire talks, that they comply with Esquipulas, that the war be ended, and that they lay down their arms so that their sons, all Nicaraguan sons, and the thousands of youths who are fighting can return home; so that we can build the happy Nicaragua that Sandino dreamt of and which we began to build in July 1979. [applause]

The mothers rightly feel sad about the departure of their sons. We are with them. We ask for reflection from those who have been manipulated by politicians who simply wish to prolong the war and to invent justifications in our country for the aggression.

On 22 January, the FSLN through me instructed the Sandinist forces to avoid being provoked. This is because even if our mothers and a minority sector of our people are manipulated, what we want the least is to have the bourgeoisie be pleased with the problems that divide our people. The bourgeoisie do not take the risks. Agustin Jarquin, a Social Christian leader, recently proposed at a meeting of the group of 14 parties—which are only letterhead organizations—that they should draft a plan to force the police to open fire on the people so they could accuse us of massacring the people. According to him, we are going to act like his fellow party member who rules in El Salvador, where the police open fire on

the people. Here we do not open fire on the people. The people have the weapons, and they cannot open fire against themselves. [applause]

Agustin Jarquin came here to Monimbo on Tuesday [9 February] to urge 10 youths to incite the people, but he did not participate. He hid while the youths took the risks. He brought them to create disturbances and vandalism.

We do not want these charges to be interpreted to mean that we oppose civic struggle. We are not afraid of civic struggle. However, what we cannot accept either as a party or as the FSLN government, the government of the people, is that the civic struggle be used for counterrevolutionary activities. We cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that four trade union leaders paid by the U.S. Embassy marched against the SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System], when in reality they said nothing about the SNOTS and instead devoted themselves to shouting slogans against military service. It is alright if they criticize the SNOTS. We can discuss and debate the SNOTS with them, but we cannot allow them to use a march they claim is against the SNOTS to be used to campaign against the defensive capability of the revolution.

We can allow parties to hold marches, to criticize government policies, and to publicize their political plans, but we cannot allow them to hold demonstrations that hail the counterrevolution. This is what the members of the Coordinating Board have been doing. To protect themselves—according to them—from any type of repressive action, they always shamelessly ask U.S. rightist congressmen to lead their marches, to shield their cowardice as they shout: Long live the counterrevolution! [passage omitted]

Those who ask us to forgive and forget assassins are demanding that we confuse Cain with Abel. They want us to forget that during these times of aggression, there are two types of people: those who are killed, and those who do the killing. Those who have been killed are the sons of many of you here. They were killed by bullets fired either by the dictatorship or by the mercenary forces and the assassins. You all know who they are: Reagan, his mercenaries, the 14 political parties, LA PRENSA, and all those despicable employees of the U.S. Embassy.

We have stated we are not afraid of their civic struggle. They may hold their civic demonstrations, and we said we would have ours. That is why as a tribute to these heroic youths, who voluntarily joined the service, we want to reiterate the challenge we made on 22 January to our opponents. Let us show who has more support in the civic struggle; let us see who has more popular support; let us see who is stronger, who has the support of the people. That is why we will take advantage of this event to call on Sandinist forces from all over the country to a political drive of mass mobilization to commemorate the

10th anniversary of the Monimbo insurrection, of the Los Abogales heroes, to commemorate national militia day and the 54th anniversary of the assassination of Sandino. [passage omitted]

Brother volunteers of the military patriotic service who are leaving today to fulfill your commitment to the fatherland: You can march to combat firm and certain, because everyone is with you and ready to struggle. All Nicaraguans are willing to take up arms whenever the fatherland requires; all the people are a single army.

Brothers, we are saying goodbye to this group of combatants with this year's slogan. We are saying goodbye because these combatants are going to struggle for an honorable peace. These combatants will struggle for an honorable peace with the sacred slogan: Free fatherland or death! [applause]

Death of UN Ambassador Nora Astorga Noted
PA151414 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
1320 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Communique issued by the FSLN Secretariat in Managua on 14 February]

[Text] The FSLN Secretariat informs its activists and the Nicaraguan people in general that Comrade Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, died in Managua on 14 February 1988. Astorga was an FSLN militant and a member of the Sandinist Assembly.

Astorga was a disciplined activist, an exemplary mother, a strong and brave guerrilla, and an efficient and able revolutionary government official.

Comrade Nora Astorga was always a frontline combatant who defended the revolution. The entire homeland is filled with the impeccable work of Astorga, who had been a member of the FSLN since 1979. Astorga defended Sandinist comrades against the Somoza dictatorship in 1970-72, and founded AMPRONAC [Association of Women Concerned With National Problems] in 1977. In addition, she was a combatant for the internal and southern fronts, and was the leader of and political secretary for the directorate of the Office of the Special Prosecutor in 1979. Nora Astorga was also deputy foreign minister and Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations.

Astorga dedicated her life to the Nicaraguan revolution. For that reason, on 23 June 1987, the FSLN honored her with the Order of Carlos Fonseca.

Today and always, the FSLN militants and the Nicaraguan people will pay homage to our unforgettable sister, Nora Astorga.

[Signed] FSLN Secretariat

Managua, 14 February 1988

For a worthy peace, free fatherland or death.

Ortega Issues Communique

PA151420 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
1350 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Communique issued by President Daniel Ortega in Managua on 14 February]

[Text] The president of the Republic, whereas:

1. Comrade Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, passed away in Managua on 14 February;

2. Comrade Nora Astorga, FSLN militant and member of the Sandinist Assembly and the Order of Carlos Fonseca, heroically participated in the struggle to overthrow the Nicaraguan dictatorship side-by-side with the Nicaraguan people. In her various combat trenches throughout these years, Astorga used her determination and dedicated all her efforts to defend the homeland and the revolution;

In employing his powers decrees:

1. To pay her respect as heroine of the homeland and the revolution at her funeral.

Be it promulgated and executed,

Managua, 14 February 1988

For a worthy peace, free fatherland or death.

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Helicopter Crash Reported in Region 6

PA151605 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
1543 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Report by Cesar Padilla]

[Text] Good morning, listeners. In a few minutes, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Interior will issue a report on this morning's helicopter crash in Region 6. The helicopter was on its way to Managua and was carrying money for the exchange of currency.

Names of Victims Released

PA151828 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
1744 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Communique No 3 of the Public and Foreign Affairs Directorate of the Defense Ministry, issued in Managua on 15 February—read by Defense Ministry official Major Rosa Pasos]

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports that at 1510 on 14 February, an Mi-17 helicopter with registration No 199—property of the Sandinist Air Force—that was

transporting personnel who were supporting the "Martyrs of Quilali" operation, crashed in the area of Las Brisas, 10 km west of Santo Tomas, Chontales Department. Preliminary investigations indicate that the crash was due to mechanical failure. The following comrades were killed in the crash:

Lieutenant Fanor Gutierrez Lezcano, pilot

Sublieutenant Luis Antonio Cuadra Granados, copilot

Sublieutenant Manrique Umana Medina, flight technician

Comrade soldier Marvin Eugenio Chavarria Mayorga, mechanic

Comrade William Luna, member of the FSLN office in La Gateada

Comrade Roberto Pastier, Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements delegate

Comrade Luis Alberto Gonzalez, member of La Gateada reserves group

The high command has appointed a commission to investigate the crash.

Issued in Managua 15 February 1988

Panama

Noriega: Southern Command Must 'Leave'

PA121336 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1114 GMT
12 Feb 88

[Text] Madrid, 12 Feb 88 (EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega says that the U.S. Southern Command will have to leave Panama because its presence is not provided for in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. In an interview published today by the Madrid newspaper EL PAIS, Gen Noriega explained that the presence of the Southern Command was denounced in 1977, when the treaties were signed. These treaties stipulate the level of U.S. military participation in Panama until the start of the next century.

According to Noriega, "as the Southern Command becomes more aggressive toward other Latin American countries and more compromising toward Panamanian security, Panama has to react."

The head of the Panama Defense Forces said that the pressure to get the Southern Command out "will always follow legal guidelines and the norms of intelligence and civilization."

With some 10,000 soldiers, the Southern Command is the principal U.S. operations base in Latin America, and is considered of great importance to the U.S. Central American policy.

The defense of the Panama Canal is an official mission of the Southern Command.

Nevertheless, Noriega believes that the U.S. forces to be used for this mission are specifically defined in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, and that these troops are not part of the Southern Command.

The general says the forces to be used for protecting the canal can remain until 1999, as provided for in the treaties.

"We are not crazy enough to not respect the treaties now—not any point, any clause, or any comma—because we would be giving them [the U.S. Government] an opportunity to disregard the treaties, and we want them to comply with the accords," said Noriega.

Gen Noriega revealed that due to his intervention, Nicaragua agreed to sit down at the negotiating table with the other Central American heads of state to discuss the peace plan of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

Noriega stated he promised Arias that he would use his influence with Sandinist leaders to promote a more flexible Nicaraguan position toward the peace plan.

Noriega insists he is "paying a very high price" for having refused to support the United States in invading Nicaragua in 1985. He noted that he never collaborated with plans of the CIA in Central America, and that he never had any contacts with the CIA.

He concedes that due to his good relations with Cuban leader Fidel Castro, the Sandinist leaders, and other Latin American rulers, Panama has played a decisive role on the continent over the last few years. He commented, however, that "Panama's mission and role have consisted of overt negotiations to attain peace or to establish dialogue among parties in conflict."

The general does not believe that his administration has leaned to the left. Although he concedes that his popularity has increased following the accusations lodged against him in the United States, he insists that in 1989, power will be turned over to whoever wins "the elections held under the rules of the game and Panamanian law."

Officials on U.S. Treaties, Southern Command
PA130000 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 1815 GMT 12 Feb 88

["Special program": "The Truth About the Southern Command"; with moderators Jorge Bravo and Luis Manuel Martinez and guest speakers Major Daniel Delgado, director of treaty affairs for the Panama Defense Forces, FDP; Juan Antonio Tack, signatory to the Tack-Kissinger joint declaration; and Aquilino Boyd, former foreign minister and former ambassador to the United States—live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Panamanian television viewers,

good afternoon. Due to its awareness of the educational role that television must play for the national community, Televisora Nacional will immediately present a special program explaining the true significance and meaning of the Southern Command, and the current illegality of its physical presence in Panamanian territory.

[Bravo] Good afternoon. Welcome to this interesting discussion panel we have entitled: The Truth About the Southern Command. Here is our colleague Luis Manuel Martinez, who will introduce the members of this panel.

[Martinez] In support of a statement issued by midlevel officers of the FDP this week, Major Daniel Delgado Diamante has been explaining to the country the basic difference between the forces stationed in the canal area who contribute to the security of the waterway, and the presence of the Southern Command as a strategic force that protects and serves U.S. military interests in our hemisphere. That is why this explanatory, guiding panel will begin with Maj Delgado, a young military man who represents the new military generation and their unyielding struggle for national sovereignty. Let us allow Maj Delgado to give us his views on the significance and harmful effects of the Southern Command's presence in Panama.

[Delgado] Good afternoon. It is important that the Panamanian and foreign community know the true significance of the Southern Command and the justified reasons why the midlevel officers of the FDP respectfully asked Panamanian President Delvalle to request the withdrawal of that strategic command stationed in our territory.

We must state that the FDP General Staff and the ranking operational officers have conducted studies concerning Panamanian security, in addition to their having planned projects to devise a security system for the canal in the year 2000. Those plans and studies are being developed.

We concluded that the presence of the Southern Command, as it now stands, is not only a strategic structure and organization that serves U.S. military interests in the Southern Hemisphere, but also an organization that endangers our national security.

Therefore, it is important for the Panamanian people, the foreign press, and all foreign countries to know the truth about the significance of the Southern Command, and the reason why our FDP have concluded that its presence in Panama threatens our security.

First, the Southern Command stationed itself in Panama in 1941. It was then known as the Caribbean Command. It was a U.S. strategic command stationed here in Panama in 1941. In 1963, the Caribbean Command changed its name to the Southern Command to protect U.S. military interests. Its presence in Panama responds

to the aforementioned interests, because it is part of U.S. forces, in this case stationed in Panama. The Southern Command is here for continental defense.

Article 4 of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties establishes the presence of U.S. military forces and bases in Panama for the exclusive defense of the Panama Canal. Neither the Torrijos-Carter Treaties nor any of its related agreements mention the words Southern Command.

The presence of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama is a de facto presence and one that only serves U.S. military interests. The Torrijos-Carter Treaties also establish that the U.S. military presence in Panama will never be larger than the figure that existed at the time the treaties took effect.

When the treaties became effective in 1979, U.S. military forces stationed in Panama totaled 9,713, according to reports provided by the Southern Command itself. In the most recent report presented by the U.S. forces stationed in Panama through the joint committee, it is stated that in 1985 there were a total of 13,432 U.S. troops stationed in Panama.

Article 4, paragraph 4 of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties also establishes a decrease in the U.S. presence in Panama and the increasing participation of Panamanian forces in the defense of the canal.

However, the U.S. presence instead increased, which is an open violation of the treaties.

As for the Southern Command, we must say it is a U.S. strategic command and control organization that is illegally established in our territory. This is because these activities are not included in the treaties, which regulate the U.S. presence and its forces in our territory for the sole purpose of defending the canal.

This command has hemispheric ramifications. It has a general staff component; planning and coordination components; and communication and command components, not only for the forces in Panama but also for U.S. forces located in other countries of our continent. Therefore, its presence in Panama does not serve the sole interest of defending the Panama Canal, as stated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Instead, it serves other interests, interests in which Panama has no reason to participate.

Therefore, the presence of the Southern Command is illegitimate and illegal, because it is not established in the treaties regulating the U.S. presence in Panama. According to the treaties, the U.S. presence must come within the framework of military forces that comprise the 193d Brigade. This brigade possesses the operational forces to work together with Panamanian forces to defend the Panama Canal. Consequently, we as an armed institution reject the presence of the Southern Command. By projecting U.S. military power in the

hemisphere south of the Rio Grande, the Southern Command turns our territory—without the permission of our government or our FDP—into a target or objective of a power or nation that opposes U.S. military and strategic interests. The possibility exists that because the United States projects its military power in the hemisphere, reprisals for its actions may be felt by our territory. This makes our people and territory vulnerable to military considerations that were under no circumstance endorsed or promoted by our government or the FDP, much less by the Panamanian people.

And so it is very important that the citizens and the Panamanian people know the true significance of the Southern Command and how its activities affect our security. Considering that this continent is strife-torn due to the problems caused by the Central American conflict, the participation of U.S. forces in that region of Central America truly compromises the historic ties of friendship that we have had with our neighboring states. Therefore, this situation places our foreign policy at the mercy of whatever the Southern Command may represent and do.

It is also worth mentioning that the Southern Command does not constitute operational forces. Rather, it is an organization or command and control structure with a general staff and communications. It consists of a force of approximately 600 men. One can compare this with the 13,000 U.S. soldiers that are here to defend the Panama Canal. The presence of these soldiers must be decreasing with their departure from our territory. The participation of the FDP must increase until 31 October [month as heard] 1999, when the last U.S. soldier leaves our territory.

With this explanation, we hope that the Panamanian people and the international community will understand our motivations concerning this highly controversial topic currently being debated by the people.

[Martinez] Based on the explanation by Maj Daniel Delgado, we must ask a question, but we will leave it for the second part of this panel. Now I want to introduce to you Juan Antonio Tack. In addition to his posts as former negotiator of the treaties and foreign minister, he is currently a Panamanian member of the Canal Consultative Committee. This committee offers a very interesting situation that must be explained to the Panamanian people. I believe that this committee has never met, has not been consulted on any matter, and has not decided anything since its creation. Here is Juan Antonio Tack:

[Tack] Thank you. Good afternoon, gentlemen. Expanding on what Maj Delgado has said, I wish to mention something that I consider to be of interest. It concerns a number of decisions regarding the agreement to implement Article 4 of the Panama Canal Treaty, the one referring to U.S. protection and defense of the Panama Canal. There are major definitions. I think there are important decisions that define concepts such as who are

the members of the forces? The term members of the forces refers to the U.S. forces present in Panama for the specific purpose of protecting and defending the Panama Canal, and nothing else. The definition reads as follows: Members of the forces: U.S. military personnel—the U.S. military forces on active duty in the Republic of Panama for specific purposes concerning the Panama Canal and any other purpose that the two governments may agree upon. This term refers to U.S. military personnel on active duty in the Republic of Panama, on temporary duty from another bases, or aboard U.S. military aircraft or vessels that may be in transit or on official visit. In sum, the definition of members of the forces in the treaty makes no reference at all, as Maj Delgado stated, to the term Southern Command.

There is even a second article concerning the definitions established by the principle of nonintervention. The article states: members of the U.S. Armed Forces, their civilian dependents, and contractors appointed by the U.S. Armed Forces will respect the laws of the Republic of Panama; and they will abstain from any activity incompatible with the spirit of this agreement. They will particularly abstain from any political activity in the Republic of Panama and any intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic. In sum, this is Article 2 of the so-called agreement to implement Article 4 of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Right? Therefore, I repeat: The term Southern Command is not mentioned at all, only the U.S. Armed Forces.

[Martinez] In other words, the presence of the Southern Command, which has been mentioned by Maj Delgado, is a violation of the spirit and the letter of the treaties?

[Tack] It is certainly a violation, because its presence here is a de facto presence; it is not a legal presence.

[Martinez] Is that so?

[Tack] Yes, and it can be easily ascertained in a...

[Martinez, interrupting] De facto?

[Tack] Exactly. There is more. I would like....[changes thought] Could you bring the camera a little closer so everyone can see that this is an old issue? You may recall that I signed an agreement with Mr Henry Kissinger on February 1974. It was known as the 8-point agreement.

[Martinez] The 8-point agreement?

[Tack] We never considered the idea of including anything that referred to the U.S. strategic command in that document, because even Mr Kissinger disagreed with this. Since February 1974—you can see it here [holds up a copy of MATUTINO with the headline "Will Eliminate Southern Command"]—the newspapers began to publish reports that even the United States itself was willing to eliminate the U.S. Southern Command in Panama as a gesture of goodwill, thus enabling the

negotiations to continue in good faith and allowing the fulfillment of several points that had been previously established by Mr Kissinger and myself during our talks in New York. The newspaper says: The new agreement will restore our sovereignty. Those who do not understand the new current will drown in it. The United States and Panama have met as equals. Order cannot be established at world level by force. The handing over of the Canal Zone and the annulment of the 1903 treaty will be included in the joint declaration signed today.

[Martinez] That was an 8-point document.

[Tack] The signature of the 8-point document came later. This was prior to that. There were many other publications besides this one. This is a photocopy. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who was the chief U.S. negotiator, and I signed....[changes thought] Due to strategic reasons, we decided that instead of signing a complete treaty—meaning article by article—we would sign what is known as an agreement in principle. This included the basic points to be discussed and later formulated in a treaty.

One of the agreements—allow me to show it so you can ascertain that I... [holds up a document dated 6 November 1974]—can you see it? The document is dated 6 November 1974. Ambassador Bunker and I discussed this document at length. It took us a long time to reach an agreement. This document does not mention the existence of the U.S. Southern Command at all. In fact, the agreement between Ambassador Bunker and me specifies that once the new Panamanian-U.S. treaties were implemented, such a Southern Command would cease to exist. The agreement specifies, and I was quite adamant about this....[changes thought] Excuse me for using the term I, but I use it because at that time I was the one who had to say what had to be said.

Anyway, the agreement only specified the presence of the U.S. Armed Forces—this could be a brigade, a company, even a 12,000-man division, led by a general—whose exclusive duty would be the protection and defense of the Panama Canal. These U.S. Armed Forces could not become involved in conflicts that might arise in other areas of Latin America. For example, if Ecuador and Peru were at war, or if Paraguay and Brazil were at war, the U.S. forces stationed here to defend and protect the Panama Canal could not become involved in those problems—not even Central American problems.

Those agreements were clearly written, but there were other developments later on that resulted in the de facto presence of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama. I am fully convinced—and this can be proven by analyzing the treaties—that if the United States had high international morals—which it does not have, since U.S. international policies are based on its interests and strength, not on moral issues—it would pull out the U.S. Southern Command of its own volition instead of waiting until Panama demands this.

[Martinez] [Former] President Royo recently issued a statement denying that he had signed any agreement granting the United States the right to maintain the U.S. Southern Command in Panama.

[Tack] Look, this is the full text of the treaties. This book includes the full text.

[Martinez] What about the so-called collateral agreement that President Royo signed?

[Tack] All the collateral agreements are included here.

[Martinez] Does President Royo's agreement with the United States exist?

[Tack] Nowhere at all.

[Martinez] Is it mere speculation then?

[Tack] Yes, mere speculation.

[Martinez] We will now hear an experienced diplomat, a specialist in international law who has safeguarded the principle of his nation's sovereignty since he first entered into Panamanian politics. We are referring to Dr Aquilino Boyd, former foreign minister, former ambassador to Washington, and former ambassador to the United Nations.

[Boyd] Panamanians: Since Panama began discussions with the United States on a new canal treaty, one of this nation's fundamental problems was always how to harmonize its hopes for full sovereignty over the whole territory with U.S. aspirations for a foothold in Panama, to guarantee what the United States described as its legitimate interests in the Panama Canal.

We Panamanians never admitted that this should be the sore point of debate. For nearly a century, we had to suffer the exaggerated presence of the U.S. Army in our country, so much so that in many places in the world, Panama was considered a colony, nearly a colony, or an occupied country. We are all aware that those U.S.-controlled 5 miles on each side of the canal have exerted a negative influence on Panama's hopes for independence and everything related to the development of Panamanian nationalism.

For this reason, by means of the treaties and over the course of time, we Panamanians sought to limit the physical presence of the U.S. Army in Panama. We wanted to eradicate, as much as possible, the idea that this was an occupying army, because the efficient operation and defense of the canal could only truly be guaranteed by the noble Panamanian people, who have never sabotaged anything or committed any terrorist acts against the waterway.

This is why, when the Security Council met here, General Torrijos and Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack wisely presented to the world our view of true sovereignty over the whole territory. The United States understood perfectly that it was necessary to demilitarize, as far as possible, the so-called Canal Zone. Through arduous negotiations, Panama desired to exchange the perpetuity clause for one specifying a fixed period of U.S. administration of the canal, one that could represent the aspirations of the Panamanian people. At the conclusion of this fixed period, Panama would then exert full sovereignty over the whole territory.

The difficulties were great. Gen Torrijos clearly realized that Panama's cause had become international, that the entire world understood, and that we should soon have a treaty that would do away with the Canal Zone and effectively integrate the entire national territory under a single flag and a single jurisdiction.

But we encountered a problem. Every treaty represents a negotiation. It was necessary to decide which guarantees we would give in such a treaty so the United States could rest assured that the canal's operation would not be interrupted by forces whose interests did not correspond to those of Panama, the United States, and international users of the canal.

I remember very well that at Contadora and in December 1976, Ambassador Bunker told me: Aquilino, I think you people will win on the point of the duration of the U.S. administration until the year 2,000. Nevertheless, you must also be aware that, although we will acknowledge Panama's effective sovereignty as your people desire, Panamanians must consider which security guarantees you will give to the U.S. Government.

It is only fair to admit that Gen Brown, commander in chief of the U.S. forces, and Gen Torrijos reached an agreement. The American people in general understood that for them, the use of the canal, rather than who owned it, was what counted, and that it was no longer possible to dispute this with Panama.

But it is also a historical truth as plain as a pikestaff that they exerted all types of pressure on Panamanian negotiators beginning in February 1977, in an attempt to secure a military presence guaranteeing them the security that they desired for the Panama Canal.

As the days, weeks, and months of negotiations passed, it became evident that in a modern war, an exaggerated U.S. presence in the canal area would no longer be necessary, and that the goodwill of the Panamanian people had been fully demonstrated. This is because we had shown with our actions, in more than two wars, that we are a civilized people who are conscientious about our responsibilities.

The Panama Canal is used by among others, South Pacific countries—Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile—that are permanently concerned about the fluctuations Panamanian political life can have as well as about the relations between Panama and the United States over the Panama Canal. This is because this canal, which is free and open to world commerce as we all want it to be, is a canal that would always be well-defended, as long as the Panamanian people defend it with enthusiasm and responsibility, as they have done so far.

Therefore, I do not understand those excessive and barbaric attacks lasting more than 7 months by the U.S. Government against an allied nation. I believe that the United States is awakening the great nationalistic feeling that gained extraordinary strength in 1976 and 1977, and which led us to attain those great hopes for which we had been struggling for such a long time.

We must look back in time, not to the years after our independence, but rather to the 10 years after the Torrijos-Carter Treaties were in effect. We see how Panama, in association with those who should be good partners, helped maintain, efficiently operate, and appropriately defend the Panama Canal.

If you read one of the amendments that the popular senator from Georgia, Sam Nunn, introduced in the U.S. Senate at the wrong time, you would notice that the Georgia senator actually referred to the possibility that the United States and Panama would negotiate agreements on military bases prior to the year 2000.

In the Congressional Record [previous two words in English], Senator Nunn, who is the current chairman of the Armed Services Committee and who was mentioned as a possible presidential candidate, expresses his belief that this good-partner relationship, that this partnership [previous word in English] between the United States and Panama will be so good that all poor impressions that the Panamanian public opinion had of the United States would be erased. He adds that before the end of the century, the new generation of Panamanians who will have that responsibility, such as Maj Delgado and his comrades-in-arms, will be tasked with deciding what is the most appropriate type of defense in keeping with current geopolitics.

Nunn states he hopes Panama's good relations with the United States would facilitate reaching a good understanding when the moment came. But what has happened? Gentlemen, with great pain we must place on record that the four centers of power that rule Washington—the Congress, the media, the Pentagon, and the White House—have unleashed a terrible, evil, and vile campaign against the Republic of Panama. I hope that those waters which were poisoned by the Senate resolution—the Senate has not dared do a similar thing to Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, or Mexico, but it has to little Panama—will make them consider, because Panamanians are very aware of their dignity. They believe that

although we are a small and defenseless people, we also have ways to apply what is known in diplomatic terms as strict reciprocity to those who misbehave toward us.

Panamanians can take measures that will undoubtedly worsen the uneasiness between the United States and Panama, and that will make the entire world doubt the good management of the Panama Canal. This is because a disaffected people, a people who have been victimized by extreme measures on the part of the United States in the sense of economic problems imposed on us, a people with Defense Forces made up of capable young men, a people who want to achieve democracy, but a people who above all else demand respect and consideration, will not, for any reason, tolerate the application here of that old saying the United States has applied to the entire world at one time or another. They applied the aphorism that reads: The might is right [previous four words in English; as heard], meaning that the powerful are always right. This will not happen in Panama. Thank you.

[Martinez] We had announced we would ask some questions following statements by Aquilino Boyd. For example, this is a question for Maj Daniel Delgado Diamante: Could the Panamanian Government order the immediate departure of the Southern Command, according to the letter and the spirit of the treaties?

[Delgado] Yes, definitely. The Panamanian Government can demand the departure of the Southern Command. We wish to explain that under no circumstances does the departure of the Southern Command in any way affect the security of the canal. There are U.S. and Panamanian forces for the defense of the canal; the Southern Command is not here to defend the canal. In fact, the Panamanian Government can demand the departure of the Southern Command with all legal and moral force. The presence of the Southern Command is neither contemplated by nor endorsed by the Panamanian people.

[Martinez] Is Maj Delgado Diamante familiar with a resolution issued by the Legislative Assembly approving the departure of the Southern Command?

[Delgado] I heard there had been a resolution, but I am not familiar with its contents.

[Martinez] In other words, this is a precedent, within this clamor by the people that has been raised by the mid-level command. We will now ask a question of Mr Tack. We will then conclude with a question to the outstanding diplomat, Aquilino Boyd.

Mr Tack: Why has the consultative committee of which you are a member not met?

[Tack] [Laughs] We have tried to hold a meeting on several occasions, but we understand that the U.S. delegates—three of them—have been postponing the meetings we had scheduled since last year. Apparently, due to

the circumstances, they do not want to hold these meetings. This is because—according to the treaty—the consultative committee has to make political recommendations. The consultative committee has to make recommendations to the board of directors of the Panama Canal [Commission]. These meetings have been postponed again and again, but we have not postponed them.

[Martinez] In fact, is the committee stalemated then?

[Tack] I would not say that, but it is stagnant.

[Martinez] Kind of sleeping?

[Tack] It is sleeping, but Panama is not to be blamed.

[Martinez] How many Panamanians form part of that committee?

[Tack] There are three Panamanian delegates and three U.S. delegates.

[Martinez] Who are the other members?

[Tack] Who are the Panamanians?

[Martinez] Yes.

[Tack] We are: [Commerce and Industries] Minister [Jose Bernardo] Cardenas; Mr Juan Antonio Stagg, an engineer; and myself.

[Martinez] You have not been able to meet in over a year?

[Tack] We have not met.

[Martinez] Now, I have a question for Aquilino Boyd: Do you think there will be a rectification of the U.S. policy that is growing in defamations, that has resorted to economic sanctions, that is telling travelers not to come to Panama because U.S. lives are in danger in Panama? In other words, all sorts of infamous things have been employed. Do you think there will be a rectification in view of the fact that on 20 January 1989, the United States will swear in a new president?

[Boyd] I think that even though the United States is engaged in a political struggle which will conclude with the November elections, and that this is not the best time for U.S. politicians to defend Panama since they are convinced they would not win any votes that way, I believe those who have promoted this scandal orchestrated against Panama—against its government, against its Defense Forces and its commander in chief—will be punished. I believe this is the case, because the American people have always claimed they support just treatment or what they term a sense of fair play [last four words in English] with Panama. However, there has not been any evidence of this over these last 8 months.

I believe they have to be affected by the argument that I have repeated over and over again: Do not try to destroy the FDP, because the cure might be worse than the disease. It is not possible for this unified, well-trained corps that has taken the time to organize into a first-class army—granted, in line with our needs—to now be destroyed by this treacherous campaign. It is not possible for the United States to destroy the Panamanian economy, our banking, and our finances, thinking that in this manner, it will promote the establishment of a weak government that will make possible and feasible the presence of the Southern Command and the military bases prior to the year 2000.

I believe the United States is making a mistake. We must repeat this over and over again, and it will finally understand this in the end. Thank you.

[Martinez] We now have a question for Maj Delgado Diamante: Charles Redman, U.S. State Department spokesman, and Vice President Bush have been involved in this problem of the Southern Command. As a representative of the FDP mid-level commands, what does Maj Daniel Delgado Diamante think of the statements made by Charles Redman and the stand of Vice President Bush?

[Delgado] I think it is important to point out that in the United States the request by the midlevel commanders was portrayed to distort the reality of what had been requested and to disinform the American public and the international public to the effect that Panama was requesting the departure of the U.S. troops. That is far from being true. We cannot disavow what is in the treaties. We would be wrong if we wanted to make a request of that type. Our purpose was to bring up—and it continues to be so—the departure of the Southern Command. We have not talked of the U.S. troops, we have not mentioned the forces that are here to defend the canal, to defend the canal exclusively, and that are provided for in the treaties. Then, with due respect to Mr Redman and Vice President Bush, I think they were surprised by the way the report was presented. Their remarks respond to a desire to lead both U.S. and international public opinion away from the fundamental matter: namely, our request for the Southern Command to leave the country. They know perfectly what we were referring to. This is why they have not even mentioned the words Southern Command, saying instead we asked the U.S. troops to leave.

This is not so. I think this must be made known. I think it is important for the U.S. people to know how far the reports they receive are being distorted. Let it remain clear for the international public that we advocate the Southern Command's leaving the territory, not the U.S. Forces, whose presence here is legitimate, according to the treaties. We also think that all of these Forces should be out of Panama by 31 December 1999 to fulfill the permanent national objectives.

[Martinez] To close this discussion, we will ask Boyd a question. Not a single bank in Panama has gone bankrupt after 6 months or more of campaigns and pressures regarding the financial center and the national economy. Has a large-scale flight of capital occurred? Has this financial center that employs more than 5,000 young Panamanians been closed? Has the center survived intrigue and slander? What do you think about this, Ambassador Boyd?

[Boyd] My flat reply is that Panama's financial and banking center rests on firm foundations. The current government, despite the economic crisis that grips the country's needy groups, has not changed the rules of the game. Despite the momentary scare they experienced because of the great slanderous campaign against Panama, investors know that, provided the rules of the game are not changed, their money is safer in Panama than anywhere else. I recommend that all Panamanians of good will read last night's speech by Mario de Diego, president of Panama's Banking Association. In this speech, De Diego explained that the banking center is firmly established and that it will continue to operate efficiently despite everything the United States might do against us.

[Martinez] Does Mr Tack think that the law or measures taken by Panama to prevent money laundering have influenced the consolidation of the banking center's prestige?

[Tack] Yes, very much. I know this because I am familiar with several aspects of this, which confirm my assertion. It is the U.S. Government that knows this best. Panama has drafted about four documents which include the entire law. High U.S. Government officials even congratulated Panama because Panama had at last made up its mind to approve such a law. This is different from the case of Cayman, this small British-owned island, where the United States imposed a law.

In the case of Panama, the United States could not impose a law they themselves had drafted. Instead, they had to let that Panama, as a sovereign country, promulgate its own law. This has greatly helped suspend and prevent money laundering in Panama. They know this very well. There are abundant documents on this.

[Martinez] Then, we can spend a few more minutes in this panel so Maj Delgado, the young man who wears the Defense Forces uniform with pride and honor, can have the final words, the message of this struggle against the Southern Command, so this struggle will not be abandoned and can come to an end as soon as possible.

[Delgado] We are convinced that only national will and the unity of all Panamanians and all our country's forces will assert our country's rights, our nation's rights. Our unity will guarantee a better future for our children. We will guarantee our children that in the year 2000, Panama will have an efficient canal handled, maintained,

and defended by Panamanians. Only if we all understand that this goal is the reason many Panamanians have died throughout our history and the goal many Panamanians worked and died for, will our generation understand we cannot betray the blood shed by the January 1964 martyrs and by all those generations of Panamanian people, who struggled for that goal. This generation cannot and will not give up this goal. We know that only united in a firm national will and determined to defend our rights and reasons, will we attain and see—God willing—the day when Panama will be completely free, sovereign, and independent, in other words on 31 December 1999.

All youths and Panamanian generations must join this fighting spirit to attain that strategic and basic goal of the Panamanian people.

[Martinez] Televisora Nacional News Director Sergio Rodriguez Auerbach on behalf of this television station wants us to publicly thank Maj Delgado, Mr Juan A. Tack, and Mr Aquilino Boyd for providing this explanation and debate of our national realities, which provide the impetus for all the efforts to destroy the FDP unity and to divide the Panamanian people before the year 2000. Televisora Nacional is proud to have provided this service to the Panamanian community, and after this extensive panel discussion of the Southern Command and its illegal presence in Panama, I believe we have fulfilled the duty of providing truths in view of the slanders and speculations, which are part of a whole destabilizing process against Panama. Thank you, gentlemen. We know this program will lead to similar, upcoming discussions.

Former President: Southcom Role Never Specified
PA121716 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Feb 88 pp A-1, A-10

[Article by Edmundo Dante Dolphy]

[Excerpt] Neither Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt [Democratic Revolutionary Party president] nor I have ever signed an agreement authorizing the military presence of the Southern Command [Southcom], former President Aristides Royo stated. He added that they possessed full powers to sign the "agreement on certain U.S. activities in Panama."

In an exclusive interview with LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, Aristides Royo, who was also education minister and at the time a negotiator of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, noted that activities of the Southern Command, within the framework of the agreement on certain U.S. activities within Panama, concerned telecommunications. "At no time does the attached document refer to what the Southern Command is, or specify the activities it carries out, or the type of operations it carries out from Panama and within Panama, or in the remainder of the Central American and South American countries," Royo said.

Royo's statements emerged following a series of publications that state he and Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt signed an "agreement concerning certain U.S. activities in Panama," without possessing the necessary authority, and which has resulted in charges of unconstitutionality being filed with the Supreme Court of Justice. [passage omitted]

TV Commentary Calls for Southcom's Departure
PA160126 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The interpretation by Major Daniel Delgado, executive director of the office in charge of implementing the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, concerning Article 4 of the treaties dealing with the defense and security of the canal, could not be more specific. There are two concepts. One is the permanence of U.S. forces until the year 2000, and the other is the permanence of the Southern Command [Southcom] in our territory. This is one of the seven U.S. strategic commands that serves U.S. military interests; and it projects itself as a disruptive element in the face of the independence of the Latin American states.

That command operates monitoring stations and radar and espionage services, which have no reason to remain in our country. Maj Delgado reiterated his total support for the statement issued by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] midlevel command demanding the ouster of the Southern Command.

The response of Marlin Fitzwater and the State Department is that the Southern Command is covered by the letter and spirit of the treaties. Nothing could be farther from the truth than this concept. Panama does not have any commitment that compels us to assume responsibility for a command that trains groups and provides logistical support within its marked interventionism in our hemisphere. If they want to spy, check the movement of aircraft, and support their conspiracies against our Latin American brothers, let them do so from their own territory.

The School of the Americas had to transfer to Fort Benning. The Southern Command will have to relocate itself somewhere in the state of Florida. In Panama, its functions are an offense and a risk to all Panamanians. The time has come to accept no further offenses or face any more risks that emanate from a first-class power, one that is intent on destroying our peace, condemning thousands of workers to misery, and strangling the dearest goals attained throughout many years of an uncompromising, relentless struggle.

The subterfuges of the White House and the State Department do not alter the root of the problem. The Southern Command must leave our territory as soon as possible. If they want to mire us in colonialism in

perpetuity, let them accept the consequences as of now. As in good historic terms, the die has been cast, and with the 193d Brigade, we have more than enough.

Abadia States Relations at 'Lowest Point'
PA130230 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2340 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abadia] Panamanian-U.S. relations are at their lowest point, and it is not our fault. These relations are currently the type that exists between a country that is being attacked and the aggressor country. A people is being unjustly harmed. However, these people are hard working, full of hopes, and, most of all, firm in their nationalistic stand.

[Reporter] What could the consequences be if we were to continue in the same way?

[Abadia] You would have to ask the Americans that. There will not be any consequences here. We will remain firm here, as one single man defending our sovereignty and dignity. What can become of this economic aggression they are carrying out? Who knows; only they know. Only they know how far they will go with this injustice. All we know is that we will not give in.

[Reporter] What do Panamanians or the Panamanian Government need to do to improve relations with the United States?

[Abadia] Just what we are doing. We are reporting, at the international level, the injustice being committed against us. We are saying out loud that we will not surrender our sovereignty and our dignity. We are saying that the national liberation began in 1968, and that no one will stop it. All we ask is that they understand our position. Then our relations will improve.

OAS Envoy Fabrega Resigns Over 'Corruption'
PA121853 Paris AFP in Spanish 1815 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, 12 Feb (AFP)—Lawrence Chewning Fabrega, alternate Panamanian ambassador to the OAS, today announced his resignation from his post, because his conscience prevents him "from continuing to be used by a government that has been characterized by corruption and a lack of legitimacy."

Chewning, who 3 days ago delivered an anti-U.S. speech at the OAS, asserted that the speech was dictated to him from Panama but that it "does not reflect his beliefs." He stated he is convinced that the U.S. Government is determined to comply with the Panama Canal Treaties.

Explains Decision

*PA130344 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Feb 88*

[Statement by Lawrence Chewing Fabrega, former deputy ambassador to the OAS, read at the OAS in Washington, D.C. on 12 February—recorded]

[Text] My name is Lawrence Chewing Fabrega. I am minister counselor and deputy ambassador from Panama to the OAS. I wish to make the following statement:

Following precise instructions by Roberto Leyton, Panamanian permanent ambassador to the OAS; and Jose Maria Cabrera, deputy foreign minister, I delivered a speech at OAS Headquarters 3 days ago on the occasion of the FRG's signing the protocol to the Treaty on the Permanent Neutrality and Functioning of the Panama Canal.

I wish to go on record as saying that I did not write that speech and that it does not represent my beliefs. I also believe that the speech does not reflect the reality of what is happening in my country. Ambassador Leyton and the Panamanian Foreign Ministry drafted the speech. It was then sent via telefax for me to deliver. In addition, I was instructed to summon the international media to publicize the [words indistinct].

I do not wish the record of my career, which so far has been unblemished, to display this stain that fills my wife, children, relatives, and friends with shame. Regrettably, I am a career diplomat. That is why I am forced to work for the Panamanian Government. However, my conscience no longer permits me and forbids me to continue working with the regime that is ruling my country.

For that reason, I tendered my letter of resignation to Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias.

Crusade: Resignation 'Patriotic'

PA131351 Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 12 Feb (AFP)—Panama's opposition National Civic Crusade has stated that today's resignation of Lawrence Chewing Fabrega, deputy ambassador to the OAS, demonstrates the "moral deterioration of the dictatorial regime ruling us."

At a news conference here today, Aurelio Barria, leader of the opposition group that since June has been demanding the resignation of Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, declared that Chewing's resignation is a "patriotic" act. He added that the resignation is a protest over "the arbitrary and irregular actions of the government."

Barria noted that following carnival, which will last from Saturday to Wednesday, the business groups will announce the date for a large nationwide strike to demand the departure of Noriega.

Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez, a businessman and member of the Executive Committee of the Crusade, noted that the charges of corruption and drug trafficking made against Noriega in the United States "are the general's personal problem." He therefore was opposed to "involving the Panamanian people" in it.

Moreover, when questioned about the U.S. role in the Panamanian crisis, Barria stated he does not have confidence in the United States because "it too supported Noriega, and, besides, we want to settle this problem by ourselves." [passage omitted]

Military Arrests 2 Brothers of Jose Blandon

*PA141434 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
14 Feb 88 p 1*

[Article by Migdalia Fuentes de Pineda]

[Text] Engineer Querubin Blandon, the brother of Jose I. Blandon, has been arrested by military authorities. This was reported to LA PRENSA by a member of the Blandon Castillo family who asked not to be identified due to reasons of security.

The source said that Querubin Blandon and a younger brother, a 2d-year student at the university who is ill, were arrested and taken to Modelo Jail. Their relatives have not yet been able to see them.

Our source stated that fellow employees of Querubin Blandon, who works at the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] offices on Justo Arosemena Avenue, witnessed the arrest. According to the source, Querubin Blandon was physically mistreated when he was arrested. The reasons for his arrest are unknown.

According to the source, the nervousness of the Blandon Castillo family has forced Dr Roberto Blandon, another brother of Jose I. Blandon and a well-known cardiologist, to go into hiding to avoid arrest.

CNN Reporter Expelled for 'Biased' Reporting

*PA141250 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
14 Feb 88 p 1*

[Text] The Panamanian Government last night notified CNN correspondent Larry Lamotte that he had to leave the country. He was in his hotel room in Panama City when an FDP [Panama Defense Forces] major told him that the government had decided to expel him from the country because his reports lacked objectivity and were biased against the government. The CNN correspondent was ordered to board a flight to Miami under military custody.

2 Other CNN Reporters Leave

PA141727 Paris AFP in Spanish 1646 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 14 Feb (AFP)—Three CNN journalists were expelled from Panama today because they had broadcast news "that lacks objectivity and is detrimental to the government," official sources stated today.

An immigration official told AFP that journalists Larry Lamotte, Della Rae Franklin, and Martin Walter Tirones departed at 0315 on a Bolivian airline flight to Miami.

The expulsion of the journalists was reported today by the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA but was denied by official sources, who later changed their statements.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, recently protested that the U.S. news media have not been reporting matters objectively and "only come to Panama to witness the ouster of the government."

Gen Paredes Prevented From Leaving for U.S.

PA150008 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2125 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian officials prevented General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, from leaving for the United States because a "slander" suit has been filed against him

Paredes, a strong critic of the current regime, reported that he planned to travel to the United States to hire U.S. defense attorneys to clear up "the regrettable error" in which his son Ahmed appears involved in international drug-trafficking activities.

Ahmed Paredes, who was recently implicated in drug-trafficking activities by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), voluntarily decided to appear before the U.S. courts "due to the poor credibility of our officials," the retired general explained.

After being notified that he could not depart, Paredes at the air terminal expressed his hope that the community will know how to interpret his not being permitted to leave the country. "If that is so, then the authorities do not want Ahmed to go and make an appearance, to prove his innocence," he noted. [passage omitted]

The opposition Civic Crusade, which has coordinated protests [against Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces], demanded the dismissal and trial of the main persons implicated, including Gen Noriega. The Crusade has also reiterated its calls for civil disobedience as a means of pressure.

In this sense, Paredes noted that "unfortunately, men do not know how to define themselves in the circumstances in which life places them. President Eric Delvalle has had the opportunity to respond to his people and to his country by removing Gen Noriega from his post because of the accusations."

President Delvalle," he added, "has not wished to fulfill the role assigned to him by history, and he will go down in history as one of the men who turned their backs on the people," he added.

Civic Crusade Member Prevented From Leaving

PA141555 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
14 Feb 88 p 1

[Article by Ruth Navarro]

[Text] Panamanian businessman Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra has charged that security agents at General Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport prevented him from leaving the country. De la Lastra was traveling to Central America on business.

De la Lastra told LA PRENSA that "security agents stopped me from leaving, thus ignoring an order issued by the Second Penal Circuit Court."

The order states that "as of 13 February and for the time being," Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra "is authorized to travel outside the country."

De la Lastra, member of the opposition National Civic Crusade and a former director of LA PRENSA, stated: "This proves the judicial system is subject to the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]."

The Civic Crusade member added that the National Department of Investigation (DENI), the organization to which the court order was addressed, "has refused to sign the document."

The businessman then noted that "this is a violation of the Constitution and of human rights, while the fact that the FDP ignores the orders of a court proves that the judicial branch has no power."

Meanwhile, during a telephone conversation with LA PRENSA, an airport security captain surnamed Nipple said the Panamanian businessman was not permitted to leave the country because he "had not gone through all the necessary formalities." However, De la Lastra told LA PRENSA he had met all legal requirements.

Clashes Close Technological University 12 Feb
PA121508 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish
12 Feb 88 p 24

[Text] Panama's Technological University has announced the suspension of classes today, Friday, 12 February 1988, due to the disturbances of the past few days, which inhibit classes from being held normally.

The communique signed by Rector Victor Levy Sasso states that the measure will not affect the administrative sector,

Crusade: Government May 'Pawn' Canal Annuity
PA121604 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish
12 Feb 88 p 8

[Paid advertisement by the National Civic Crusade; date, place not given; passages in boldface as published]

[Text] "To achieve victory, one always has to take the path of sacrifices." Simon Bolivar No to the Carnivals

The Panamanian people, who are concerned and aware of the shameful national situation, will not celebrate carnivals.

We will use our civic spirit to ponder the grave events that have taken place over the past few weeks and which have worsened the serious national crisis. These events force us to remain in a state of **patriotic alert** to act in line with their development to save the nation from its current chaotic situation and to bring about the profound changes our nation urgently needs.

Today more than ever, we must continue our peaceful struggle and prevent the confrontations and provocations that military and paramilitary groups may promote by taking advantage of the carnival season.

Watch Out!!! The Government Will Pawn the Canal Annuity.

In order to overcome the chronic delay in paying its international debt, officials of the regime are negotiating with bank representatives in New York for a \$40 million advance to pay the interest on the foreign debt, which is due in March. One of the alternatives the government is proposing to guarantee the payment of the \$40 million advance is mortgaging the annuity received from the Panama Canal. Through this scheme, the proceeds from the canal will not be used for development projects or to benefit the people. Instead, proceeds from the canal from now on would be used to cover up the incompetence and irresponsibility in handling government affairs.

How can General Noriega speak of an attack on the fatherland and the Torrijos-Carter Treaties when he is the one who does not hesitate to compromise the sacred product of our essential asset for his own sake?

Paper Urges Delvalle To Remove Noriega
PA141737 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
12 Feb 88 p 1A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] On 8 August, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, one of the most important U.S. newspapers, published an interview with President Eric Arturo Delvalle by Marjorie Miller. President Delvalle was interviewed in Panama. One question the reporter asked him was what he would do if the Miami federal grand jury was to indict General Manuel Antonio Noriega. At that time, Gen Noriega was under investigation to determine his involvement in drug trafficking. According to the reporter, President Delvalle answered: "If this should happen, he would then have to be replaced." Even Delvalle knows that Noriega has not only been indicted by the Miami grand jury but also by a Tampa grand jury. He additionally knows that a U.S. Senate subcommittee began hearings on this matter on Monday, during which detailed and incriminating statements have been made accusing Noriega of these crimes. Despite all this, the Panamanian Office of the Attorney General has not ordered an investigation into this matter, nor has it ordered Noriega's removal from office as established by the law. The president, who has sworn to abide by and protect the law, must ask the attorney general to proceed according to the law. If the attorney general does not obey the order, the president must then be the one to order Gen Noriega's removal from the office of commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, and appoint his replacement. This is the only thing that could help the president regain his lost authority and return to Panama its characteristics as a civilized nation.

Paper Outlines Nation's 'True Situation'
PA131922 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
12 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Panama's True Situation"]

[Text] Panama's true situation as a nation, people, and government is that it enjoys great international prestige. This means that the large-scale publicity campaign which tries to portray Panama as a nation of weak people governed by a clique of killers and people who got rich overnight has failed, for most nations can distinguish between a lie and the truth and between something real and something fake. Another campaign specifically aims to change the leadership of the revolutionary process, leadership that is headed by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. The FDP occupies that position not on a whim, but because the leaders of this institution rose to power on 11 October 1968. Even though the FDP has withdrawn from politics, this does not mean that it has relinquished its historic stand. A third campaign has been plotted against the president, aiming to "prove" he is a "spurious" leader created by the combination of a much-publicized "electoral fraud" and a coup d'etat. When one looks carefully, however, one discovers that

even the current president received more votes than all the other candidates. It is also clear that his accession to the presidency was in strict compliance with the letter and spirit of our Constitution. This took place after the resignation of his predecessor, who did not wish to work in close cooperation with the legislative branch and in unity with the UNADE [National Democratic Union], which elected him. The next campaign aims to portray Panama as a distribution center for drugs shipped to the United States, but it is quite the opposite: A large number of Yankees have been caught in our ports and airports when they tried to smuggle drugs through Panama, using the most ingenious tricks, for other markets. The Drug Enforcement Agency itself has recognized this. The next campaign is bringing countless charges against the FDP. Nevertheless, throughout 1 and 1/2 years of sedition, only two citizens have died in clashes with opponents during demonstrations while the FDP sought to enforce order. Furthermore, there is a plan to misconstrue the stand of mid-level FDP officers, who wish to evict the illegal U.S. Southern Command. The public, however, now knows the difference between bases authorized by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and an illegal command established by force.

Businessmen To Prevent 'Violent Struggle'
PA122313 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
12 Feb 88 p 24a

[Article by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Excerpts] "Before repression and violence turn our city into debris and ashes, we will be forced to employ our only alternative—a national strike—as an extreme measure to prevent a violent struggle between Panamanians."

This statement was made last night by Aurelio Barria, Jr, who was reelected president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture, during the installation ceremony held at the Horacio Alfaro Hall of the chamber. Industrialists and businessmen participated in the ceremony. [passage omitted]

"We businessmen have been persecuted, intimidated, and our enterprises have endured various forms of state pressure," Barria charged. "However, the state has not been able to bend our spirit or our national awareness. We will remain firm and we will not be blackmailed," he stressed. [passage omitted]

Argentina

More on U.K. Military Exercise in Falklands

Alfonsin: Maneuvers 'Offensive'

PY122257 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2237 GMT
12 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin today said that the British attitude is downright offensive with regard to the military exercises which the British Government will conduct in the Malvinas Islands in March.

Alfonsin said the British Government has never considered us a democracy; on the contrary, it has insisted during various international meetings that Argentine democracy is weak.

Alfonsin made this statement during an interview granted in the Olivos residence this morning to the daily USA TODAY. The contents of the interview were released by Government House this afternoon. Alfonsin said Great Britain never obeyed the decisions reiterated by the United Nations with regard to the need to resolve this problem through dialogue.

Caputo Comments on Exercise

PY130227 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo by Argentina Televisora Color anchorman Carlos Campolongo in Buenos Aires on 13 February—live or recorded]

[Text] [Campolongo] The British Government unilaterally decided to enforce an exclusion zone and now, approximately 1 year later, the situation is heating up again as a result of militarization. How does the Foreign Ministry interpret this situation?

[Caputo] [Words indistinct] the facts, the situation was one of almost complete normality because there were no elements of tension, and then a shocking British decision emerged, a real provocation—the British are going to conduct a military exercise between 7 and 31 March. This military exercise will involve Phantom airplanes and airborne troops. This is unexpected, and it is going to create a great deal of concern at a time when, I insist, there was no increase in tension. This is a provocation, purely a provocation.

Why is Great Britain doing this? Perhaps to demonstrate that its policy is a policy of force, to demonstrate that it is losing in the dialogue, that exercising a policy of power through military exercises is the only way it can defend its position. Perhaps to hinder or obstruct a process—I would not say rapprochement because that would be an exaggeration—a process aimed at preventing incidents in the south. [Words indistinct] you know that efforts were made to find a way to prevent the depredation of

maritime resources, and to prevent military incidents. Progress was made in this regard. I believe some progress was made in the area of humanitarian rights. We could have made more progress in this field, but suddenly this situation emerged and obviously complicated things a great deal. Was it created in order to prevent progress? There are many assumptions. This situation was created either to prevent a process of negotiation [words indistinct], to prevent Argentine reason from prevailing in the international arena, to demonstrate that the policy of force is the one that prevails, for whatever reason [words indistinct]. At a time when there were no elements of concern, a unilateral and provocative act is carried out in which the use of force appears as an instrument of deterrence of British foreign policy [words indistinct].

[Campolongo] It is not necessary to remind the foreign minister about the correlation between the domestic and foreign policies of countries. My first theory concerns—and I ask your thoughts on this—whether this could be the prelude to a third country intervening again as a mediator or offering its good offices in view of the conflict?

[Caputo] That remains to be seen. We are not discarding any offering of good offices or mediation here. But for the time being, Argentina will not wait for such mediation. We will undertake a diplomatic offensive, which got under way today. We met with the 11 countries of the EEC to express to them the Argentine Government's concern, and explained to them the facts I have mentioned to you. We held a meeting yesterday and today with ambassadors from the Group of Eight, the Latin American ambassadors. Today we are presenting a note to the UN Security Council. I do not discount the possibility that the Security Council might call for an emergency session. We are resorting to the OAS, calling for an extraordinary session of the Security Council. Well, we are going to press on with care and prudence, without letting ourselves get caught in a trap. It would be well for the British to take notice of this as well.

[Campolongo] [Words indistinct] associated with provocation...

[Caputo] We have to be careful about this, with all the energy and diplomatic force Argentina should have.

[Campolongo] Regarding the correlation of policies we pointed out before, I would like to ask you about a second possibility, Mr Minister. Could Argentina's internal situation in the wake of Aldo Rico's uprising generate... [changes thought] Is there any information with regard to concern in the British Parliament about our internal situation? Is there any correlation involved here?

[Caputo] I would not say it has a direct correlation with this—do you mean with this episode in Congress?

[Campolongo] In addition to the steps you have mentioned—such as complaining before the international community—and meetings you referred to, what other propositions will Argentina advance; what steps will it take?

[Caputo] For the time being the most important steps are the initiatives before the UN Security Council, the OAS, the Latin American community, and the European Community.

[Campolongo] What responses have you received from such contacts, Mr Minister?

[Caputo] Very good responses indeed, very good responses. But these responses are not enough, because we expect some actions to be promoted.

Foreign Diplomats Briefed

PY121927 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1552 GMT
12 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (TELAM)—Diplomats from 11 countries that make up the EEC and from Latin American countries accredited to the Argentine Government visited the Foreign Ministry today to learn more details concerning the Argentine Government's reaction to a particularly serious and highly worrisome event that could create new and greater tensions: the transfer of a large number of British troops to the Malvinas Islands zone.

Foreign Ministry Secretary Susana Ruiz Cerruti welcomed the diplomats. The objective of the visit was to brief the diplomats on the Argentine decision to denounce to the world the British idea of carrying out emergency maneuvers in the Malvinas Islands between 7 and 31 March. These maneuvers include the deployment of Phantom planes and a considerable number of troops, who will be airlifted to the islands.

The Argentine Government yesterday termed the British decision a particularly serious and highly worrisome event creating new and greater tensions at a time when friendly countries are trying to achieve more relaxation [distension] in the zone.

Senator on NATO Link

PY121909 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Senator Adolfo Gass, president of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Question] Good afternoon. We would like an explanation of the Malvinas situation and the British military maneuvers.

[Gass] Sure. I will try to reflect out loud. I was surprised, just like the rest of the public, by the British decision to carry out such large military maneuvers in the South Atlantic.

I hope the United Kingdom is not carrying out those maneuvers thinking that Argentina could attack again to recover the Malvinas Islands. As you know, President Raul Alfonsin—as well as our foreign minister and several of our congressmen—has repeatedly said Argentine democratic governments do not approve war actions. We demonstrated this when we signed the peace and friendship treaty with Chile, a document we respect.

I believe there are other factors that led the United Kingdom to carry out such large military exercises so far from its shores.

I would like to know what the United States has to say about this, since the United Kingdom is one of its main allies in NATO. What have they decided or what happened to prompt the United Kingdom to carry out maneuvers in the South Atlantic?

This is something we must ask ourselves, something which our Foreign Ministry will probably try to find out, because we cannot believe the maneuvers will be carried out simply in preparation for a possible Argentine attack, which I insist will not take place because not only are we a peaceful country, but we also know our limitations.

Besides, this comes at a time when there are problems in Central America—I do not only mean the old problems of Nicaragua and its neighbors, but also the new problems between the Panamanian Government and the United States, which are making serious accusations against each other.

As our Foreign Ministry communique states, the British military maneuvers are arbitrary and worry us. They upset not only the Argentine Republic, but the rest of the Latin American continent as well.

[Question] I see. What do you see as the real objectives of these military maneuvers?

[Gass] I believe they must be connected with NATO, especially after hearing today's reports to the effect these maneuvers were planned a long time ago. Therefore, they are not something new.

However, it worries us because we are continually trying to negotiate with the United Kingdom. Through a resolution, the United Nations is trying to mediate and urge us to discuss all the issues related to the Malvinas Islands.

At a time when friendly countries are trying to get us to negotiate, how can the United Kingdom decide to carry out these maneuvers, which will certainly affect our relations?

[Question] I understand. Senator, that the Argentine Foreign Ministry communique states the United Kingdom will be responsible for the consequences of these military maneuvers...

[Gass, interrupting] Of course. At the request of friendly countries that have given us their support through the UN resolution, we have done and are doing everything possible to avoid any incidents in our 200-mile exclusive maritime zone and in the fishing protection zone unilaterally declared by the United Kingdom.

Our small Naval Prefecture patrol boats take great care to respect our maritime border. All the ships we have detained were found within our jurisdiction. Our ships have always avoided any incident in the zone. However, these military maneuvers worry us because one never knows where any of the British ships may turn up, or how our own ships may react.

[Question] Do you think the Argentine Government will have any other reaction besides the communique issued by the Foreign Ministry?

[Gass] I am sure our Foreign Ministry must already have contacted our embassies in the countries dealing with this subject. Let's just wait for new developments.

[Question] Thank you, Senator.

Deputy Scores Political Pressure

PY151428 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1245 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (NA)—UCR Deputy Lucia Albertini has said the March UK military maneuvers around the Malvinas Islands constitute a U.S. and UK ploy "to prevent Argentina from assuming an independent position in the United Nations regarding the issue of human rights in Cuba."

Albertini told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the British Crown and Ronald Reagan's administration had "agreed to pressure Argentina," and that the military maneuvers in the Malvinas "are part of a strategy" linked to the Argentine vote in the United Nations on the investigation of human rights in Cuba, an issue that "interests the United States."

Albertini added this situation applies to the majority of industrialized countries that talk about the issue of economic support for developing countries, but "in reality never fulfill their promises."

Deputy Albertini exhorted the Argentine Government to insist on joint actions with other Latin American countries to act "as a community, in a solid bloc, and in defense of Latin American's own interests, and thus to prevent pressures from confronting and dividing us."

"The object of the policies of some industrialized countries is to subordinate our wills to the impositions of the IMF, and thus prevent us from freeing ourselves from this dependence," Albertini said.

She also called for a campaign of "international solidarity to allow our countries to take off," and requested the formation of "a political and economic alliance of Latin American and Third World countries in order to have real strength to stand up to the powerful countries of the world."

Deputy Albertini accused "the British Government of Margaret Thatcher and the U.S. Administration of Ronald Reagan of creating a new focus of tension and pressure against Argentina, just after we overcame the threat of institutional destabilization."

"It is time we began associating these international events [words indistinct], the deputy stressed.

Uruguayan Paper Cited

PY151944 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1553 GMT
15 Feb 88

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Feb (TELAM-PL)—The Uruguayan Government newspaper EL DIA today termed the announced British maneuvers on the Malvinas Islands scheduled for 7 March 1988 an act of provocation toward Argentina.

In an editorial, the newspaper says the only solution to the Malvinas conflict that must be outlawed is the use of force and weapons; thus, such maneuvers are inappropriate.

The editorial adds it is quite understandable Argentine President Raul Alfonsin considers the British position (military maneuvers on the Malvinas) an affront.

EL DIA expresses its support for the position announced a few days ago in London by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, who stated that these events do not contribute toward an easing of tension in the area; on the contrary, they can seriously affect the objective of establishing a zone of peace in the South Atlantic, an objective Uruguay vigorously supports.

Economy Minister Discusses New IMF Loan

PY151301 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1735 GMT
14 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (TELAM)—Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille has announced that Argentina has negotiated a \$500-million loan with the IMF in Washington. The loan will be entered in the national treasury as a down payment on a fund for credit adjustments to cover losses attributed to the fall of export prices.

Sourrouille said the IMF funds constitute compensation for the Argentine fiscal deficit, and added: We normally finance our fiscal deficit, or what we spend in excess of what we earn, with foreign loans.

Sourrouille stated that the goals previously agreed upon for October were fulfilled. He added: I would say that the IMF will place an unconditional down payment of credit at the disposal of Argentina.

The economy minister made these comments upon his arrival from Washington. He denied that political conditions had been imposed or that Secretary of the Treasury James Baker had participated directly in the negotiations.

After sharply denying that the topic of human rights in Cuba was discussed during negotiations, Sourrouille said: I am the Argentine economy minister, negotiating economic matters, and I never had any discussions of that kind.

He added: I have never heard of this type of topic coming up in economic negotiations. If anyone ever proposed such topics, we would be the first to reject them because we are here to discuss economics and nothing else.

Sourrouille said the government is reiterating some basic principles, drawing some general guidelines for the period ahead, and reaching agreements on disbursements on that basis.

Later, regarding negotiations with the World Bank, Sourrouille said: We have made some advances in this field, particularly regarding a credit and an important program of readjustment and reconversion of the financial system. We have been discussing this topic with them for some time, and it is now practically ready. We are also seeking credits for the agricultural sector.

Asked about statements by National Deputy Rabanaque Caballero, who called Sourrouille an IMF employee, he said Caballero's opinion is his own responsibility, and added: Everyone knows my responsibility, everyone knows Argentina has a foreign debt policy and an international credits policy, and that is all I talk about.

Machinea Rejects Possibility of Moratorium
PY142104 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1417 GMT
15 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (TELAM)—Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea has estimated the total Argentine debt currently amounts to \$54-\$55 billion and said a moratorium would be useless.

Regarding the amount of the debt, Machinea said it has increased because Argentina has not paid all interest due, and as a result of the devaluation of the dollar, the portion of the debt in other currencies—yen or Deutsche marks—is worth more dollars today.

Machinea made these statements at Ezeiza International Airport shortly after returning from Washington, where he, together with Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille—who returned yesterday—negotiated the immediate disbursement of \$550 million for Argentina with the IMF.

Machinea explained that the loan will probably be made in two payments or during two periods. It would be a direct U.S. Government bridge loan. The main part of this bridge loan is made up of \$400 million to be disbursed by the IMF: \$220 million in accordance with the stand-by agreement, and approximately \$180 million as compensation for the fall in prices of exports.

Machinea added that the second part is a bridge loan to other loans we are negotiating with the World Bank which include the second part of a \$155 million agricultural loan and the first payments of the financial loan the president of the World Bank will consider in the next few days. The latter involves total credits of \$400 million.

Machinea said there is still a lot to negotiate, including all the financing Argentina will need in 1988. He added that this is important, as in previous years, because it allows Argentina to reduce somewhat the transfer of resources to the outside.

He added that we still have to negotiate with commercial banks to meet this financial need ahead of us.

When asked about the possibility of declaring a moratorium on the foreign debt, Machinea said he does not believe it is an appropriate solution and cited the recent Brazilian experience. He added that a moratorium is very costly and this is why Brazilian authorities have recently changed course.

Machinea said a unilateral moratorium makes foreign credits more costly and relations with the other countries of the international financial community more difficult. He emphasized, however, this does not mean we have to stop trying to reach a definitive solution to the foreign debt problem.

Chile

Foreign Ministry Note Rejects U.S. Report
PY121657 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
0930 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has released a communique stating that the U.S. Department of State report on the human rights situation in Chile during 1987 has many mistakes and refers to events that have not occurred. The communique states that the Chilean

Government rejects the inaccurate contents of the document prepared by the United States. In its communique, the Chilean Foreign Ministry warns the Chilean people not to let a report based on misinformation mislead them. The communique adds that no foreign report will disrupt the institutional process chosen by the Chilean people.

The communique states:

The U.S. report focuses only on part of the national reality. It contains several mistakes and describes events that have not occurred. The publication of this report by the media must not lead people to incorrect conclusions. The Chilean people are well aware of the permanent efforts made by the government to fully guarantee respect for human rights in the country. One of the fundamental principles of our Constitution is respect for human rights, and the government is very firm in guaranteeing this respect.

The communique then mentions the achievements made in the field of human rights. It concludes by stating that no foreign report will disrupt the institutional process chosen by the Chilean people.

Labor Under Secretary Cited

PY131328 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
0930 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Labor Under Secretary Guillermo Arthur has said the U.S. State Department human rights report on Chile is not objective or credible, and it contains big mistakes. Arthur analyzed the labor related aspects of the U.S. document, which disapproves of the fact that National Workers Command leaders were taken to court for calling a strike on 7 October 1987.

Arthur said the Chilean labor code contains the right to strike within the framework of collective bargaining between workers and managers of an individual company.

Foreign Minister Meets With Israeli Official

PY112028 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Major General Abraham Tamir, the Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, has praised the positive evolution of the Chilean economy. The Israeli official said his country is closely following the process of transition to democracy in Chile, but he made it clear that Israel never interferes in the internal affairs of other countries. Tamir made these comments after a meeting with Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia in the Foreign Ministry's Red Hall. He was accompanied by the Israeli ambassador to Chile, David Efrati, who translated his comments.

[Begin Efrati recording] The director general made it clear that we do not want to interfere in Chilean domestic affairs. We are watching the process toward democracy with great interest and we are [words indistinct] [end recording].

Abraham Tamir praised the economic policy of the Chilean Government and added that it is a very positive factor in the development of a stable democracy. [passage omitted]

Terrorist Attacks Reportedly Slated for March

PY130245 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2200 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] According to unofficial reports, a series of terrorist attacks planned by the communists and their allies of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left and the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front will begin on 4 March in major Chilean cities. These acts of violence, which will be carried out as a display of power, will continue on 8, 11, and 17 March with the support of other opposition parties. These terrorist attacks are intended to create chaos and to distort the current Chilean situation abroad.

Paraguay

Reportage on 14 February Elections, Results

Stroessner Addresses Rally

PY121150 Asuncion Red Privada de Television
in Spanish 2327 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Speech by President Alfredo Stroessner at ANR, National Republican Association, Colorado Party, rally marking the end of the 1988 election campaign held at the Plaza Independencia in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] Fellow Colorado Party comrades: [cheers] With this gigantic rally, the ANR closes its presidential campaign for the 14 February elections.

On 16 January, 60,000 enthusiastic Colorado Party members gathered in the city of Paraguari, and on 30 January we experienced a great patriotic feeling along with almost 20,000 Colorado Party members in the city of Mariscal Estigarribia, a city located in the heart of the Paraguayan Chaco. That region, which was saved thanks to the heroism of Paraguayans, is now being fully developed by great works which have been implemented in keeping with the great creative spirit of the Colorado Party. [cheers]

Today we are gathered in the capital of the country. When we took power, this city had no running water; today it is an example of development and modern life. It is this city which today welcomes this extraordinary Colorado Party crowd which is here to go down in history, to tell present and future generations, that it is

the Colorado Party that is governing, and will continue to govern, the country because it is the unbeatable majority in Paraguayan democracy. [applause, cheers]

We are here to proclaim our resolute loyalty to the will of the people. As Colorados, we are loyal to this basic principle expressed in the manifesto issued on 11 September 1887 because the sovereignty of the people is the basis of the Republic. Therefore, we are here today to say that our works will always seek to achieve the well-being of the fatherland because this is the Colorado party ideal we harbor in our hearts and because this is the lesson we inherited from the immortal founder of this party, General Bernardino Caballero. [passage omitted]

Fellow Colorado Party members, while some theoreticians live in an abstract world, detached from human realities, we have interpreted the will of the people and have materialized it into numerous public works [interrupted by cheers] [passage omitted]

Fellow comrades, the Constitution is above everyone and no one is above the Constitution. This is why irregular groups that encourage people to abstain from participating in the elections; those who do not comply with their specific civic duties; those who violate the laws; those who confuse freedom with libertinism; and those who believe that the exercise of their rights is tantamount to the right to attack the basis of society, will never be able to teach us how to uphold the laws because in so doing they are violating the Constitution.

We have obeyed and will continue to obey the Constitution and the laws. We have and will continue to defend peace, to safeguard the people and social peace because freedom within the framework of the law is tantamount to upholding the Constitution.

The victory of Colorado Party candidates on 14 February will be the victory of a patriotic policy, of a strong and vigorous ideal that has faith in the prosperity of the country [interrupted by applause, cheers]

The continuity of peace is also tantamount to the respect for human rights. We will not allow crime or vandalism to disrupt the peace of Paraguayan homes. We will not allow our fatherland to fall into the hands of terrorism, or our cities and towns to be the target of gangs of assassins that are financed and organized by international subversion. [passage omitted]

We do not support the guidelines upheld by the pseudo-apostles of democracy who allege themselves to be defenders of human rights but who support and ally themselves with the blood-thirsty and wicked lackeys of international communism. [applause]

We have always spoken and acted in a clear manner. Ambiguous attitudes are characteristic of the weakling and the coward. We call things by their names. We have never supported international groups that want to turn

this continent into a land of misery and slavery. We do not surrender our principles. We are aware that we uphold a truly authentic Paraguayan doctrine that is essentially just: the doctrine of the great Colorado Party which does not harbor sectarian ideals, and which represents the highest ideals that safeguard the unity and the democratic coexistence of all Paraguayans. [applause]

The Colorado Party is not in power because it upholds authoritarian principles but because the laws that uphold and respect the enforcement of our state of rights grant it the authority to do so.

Fellow Colorado comrades, we shall continue to raise the standard of living of the people without demagoguery or propaganda. [passage omitted]

In view of the 14 February elections that will be held to elect a president, senators, deputies, and members of the electoral boards, national political parties have carried out their respective electoral campaigns with all the guarantees established in the Constitution and the electoral laws.

Each political party was able to inform the people about its platform and its candidate's proposals in events held on the streets, in plazas, and other political gatherings, and through the press, in keeping with the political freedom that prevails in Paraguay.

The few totalitarians and subversives who encourage people not to vote, and who are therefore against the principles of the constitutional government, will not tarnish this magnificent show of faith in democracy: the 14 February elections.

The peace we enjoy guarantees all citizens the right to cast their vote in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Everything will be clean and normal. No one will stop the Paraguayan people from engaging in their right to express their sovereign will at the ballot boxes. Our destiny will not be imposed on us from abroad; it will be shaped by all Paraguayans with our votes, with our dignity, and with a high civic mindedness that honors the nation. [applause] [passage omitted].

Fellow Colorado Party members, we have a great commitment to democracy.

Let us all vote with our minds set on the fatherland and may the Colorado Party win because in so doing it will benefit peace and the future of the fatherland. [applause]

Religious Activities Suspended

PY121447 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
11 Feb 88 p 12

[Text] Political and police authorities have prevented a delegation of priests, nuns, and seminarians from carrying out their pastoral mission in the district of Raul

Arsenio Oviedo, Caaguazu Department, and expelled them from the location. This report was taken to the bishop of Coronel Oviedo, who made the appropriate denunciation.

The report states that the delegation was comprised of priests Carlos Latorre and Ignacio Espinola, 2 nuns, and 10 seminarians.

The problem reportedly emerged because the Colorado Party had scheduled the closing of its [local] electoral campaign on Sunday [7 February] at 0900, the same time a mass and procession were scheduled. While the priests were talking with Amancio Cantero, president of the local Colorado Party Precinct, and Mayor Delgado, a sergeant arrested two seminarians who were making house-to-house visits. The mayor said that no "permission" had been given for meetings.

The report adds that another possible "cause" of the authorities' annoyance could be the fact that the bishops' letter on elections was read at the 3 February [date as published] mass. Colorado Party authorities had asked that religious activities scheduled for 7 February be suspended.

According to the report, on 5 February, while the priests were saying mass, several local pastoral coordinators and seminarians who were participating in the pastoral mission were taken to the police station, some of them at gun point.

The report states: "We entered Police Chief Garcete's office and he read an accusation submitted to the local court by the president and secretary of the Colorado Party Precinct, saying that we had 'violated the electoral law.' They accused some 20 people, but did not mention names."

"After vainly trying to hold a reasonable and serene dialogue, Garcete finally imposed his authority without listening to our arguments. He said that we must leave the district, that there was an expulsion warrant against Father Espinola, and that if we did not leave, he would arrest and beat us all," the report adds.

"No mass has been allowed in the district. In San Ramon, people were waiting for the priest to say mass that afternoon for a 15th birthday celebration, but it was suspended. Other masses scheduled in Carreria-i, Panambi, Syryka, Centro Urbano, and Yhovv Central were also suspended," the report concludes.

Opposition Politicians Arrested

PY121125 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish
1026 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Several opposition leaders have been arrested 48 hours before the general elections for president of the Republic, deputies, senators, and Electoral Court members.

One of those arrested is Luis Manuel Andrada Nogues, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party. Domingo Laino, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal party [PLRA], and Luis Guanes Gondra, also a PLRA member, are under house arrest.

MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] leaders Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca and Edgar Gimenez have also been detained.

Eight youth members of the PLRA have been arrested. Their names are: Clemente Falcon and Dario Torrasca, from San Juan del Nembucu; Vicente and Luis Alberto Morales and Jose Silguero from the 9th PLRA precinct of Asuncion; Ramon Ferreira; Esteban Delgado; and Joaquin Casal.

Opposition Politicians Released

PY122116 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
12 Feb 88 p 10

[Text] Joaquin Casal, one of the members of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party Youths (JLRA), who was arrested and held at the Security Police Detention Center, and who was released today along with other political prisoners, has said: "We want to say we were treated quite badly when we were arrested."

Esteban Delgado and Ramon Ferreira are the other two JLRA members who were released this morning. Casal added: "All of us were beaten and kicked and hurled to the floor and against the walls of the truck that took us to the Security Police Detention Center."

He added: "My head is bruised and I cannot raise my left arm, not even to smoke a cigarette. All of us have bruises from the beatings we received."

Casal said: "We were arrested and sent to the Security Police Detention Center on 10 February. At least we were not subjected to any beatings there and they were very kind to us. Nevertheless, they did put us inside the famous closet [referring to a small cubicle used to hold prisoners]."

Luis Manuel Andrada Nogues, from the Christian Democratic Party, and MOPOCO President Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca yesterday joined the JLRA members in the closet. They were also detained at the Security Police Detention Center. All of them were released this morning.

Watch on Laino's House Lifted

PY122306 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
12 Feb 88 p 10

[Text] The police watch on Laino's house was lifted late yesterday. Laino was under house arrest for over 24 hours, and his telephone service was interrupted although there are no problems with his phone bill. It is believed that the police measure was political in nature.

Regarding this situation, Laino said he is going to submit a petition for amparo for the restoration of his telephone service, which was cut off on 10 February.

Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, vice president of the PLRA, in view of recent events, said: "Generalized massive arrests have been conducted against the democratic opposition. Pressure has been exerted on Domingo Laino and other leaders from the interior of the country who have been arrested with no explanation from the government."

Benitez Florentin said he received a long-distance call from a high-ranking member of the International Human Rights Commission who expressed interest in the events in Asuncion, especially the problem affecting Laino.

A man named Dimarco said he will submit a protest to the Paraguayan ambassador to the OAS.

The PLRA press office reiterated that foreign observers will be arriving in the next few hours to observe the Sunday elections. Argentine Deputies Huarte and Arganaraz are arriving today.

The PLRA released a communique stating that "yesterday the PLRA Executive Board received a report from Washington that former Ambassador Robert White was not allowed by the Paraguayan dictatorial regime to visit our country."

The communique adds: "This arbitrary decision against such an imminent figure of democracy highlights the government's lies and its inability to hold honest elections, a situation the PLRA has been denouncing. This is why the party advocates abstention from the elections. The prohibition against Robert White shows once again that the government has no electoral support and the Paraguayan regime cannot bribe men like Robert White."

Opponents Hold News Conference

PY121947 Montevideo El Espectador Network
in Spanish 1500 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Orlando Rojas and Miguel Caballero, leaders of the Paraguayan Committee for Free Elections, have termed the 14 February elections in their country a mere act.

At the beginning of a news conference held in Montevideo, at which El Espectador was present, the leaders referred to their international campaign in support for a return of democracy to Paraguay.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] We are out of our country trying to inform international opinion of our peoples' struggle to regain democracy in our country. In this regard, we (?represent) those political and social organizations currently confronted with the violent and

imposed repression of the regime in its attempt to perpetuate itself in power through another reelection. In other words, this news conference is to inform the world about the violation of the Paraguayan peoples' human and civil rights. [end recording]

We have just heard Orlando Rojas and Miguel Caballero, leaders of the Paraguayan Committee for Free Elections.

Colorados Warn of Foreign 'Plan'

PY131532 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
13 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Colorado Party sources yesterday said that "delegations of foreign political parties linked to Paraguayan parties that are not legally recognized will arrive in Asuncion for the 14 February elections with the purpose of promoting negative incidents and upsetting the electoral process."

The sources said the Colorado Party authorities "are already aware of such a plan." The sources added that "such delegations as well as others that have already arrived in the country will be able to circulate freely as long as they do not violate the law."

Rally Dispersed With Tear Gas

PY131428 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish
1346 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Live relay by Adolfo Gimenez from mobile unit]

[Excerpts] [Gimenez] We are going to try to transmit with some difficulty from Palma and Independencia Nacional Streets, downtown. We are just recovering from the tear gas thrown a few minutes ago by the police into a rally held here by the Free Elections Coordinating Board. We will try to recover from the tear gas and then will call again from Independencia and Palma Streets where, as I reported, a rally was held with serious incidents involving a large crowd. The police threw tear gas to break up the rally. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified announcer] Are you better, Gimenez?

[Gimenez] Yes, I have recovered. There are many people near the Guarani Hotel and in the squares in front of it. There is a big police deployment in the area, but the police have stopped repressing the public.

I must explain that this was a rally organized by the Free Elections Coordinating Board. Protesters started gathering at the corner of Palma and Independencia Nacional Streets. As soon as Domingo Laino and Hector Lacognata began giving their speeches and shouting slogans, a large crowd gathered around them.

We presume the crowd was made up of the usual people who come downtown on Saturdays. The police immediately started clashing with the public and tore down

some of the opposition members' posters. The people then started to march down to the National Pantheon, where the police seriously repressed the protesters and tried to arrest some of the leaders. They could not arrest Laino because he was protected by a large crowd.

The march then retreated to the same street corner, and the police started shooting tear gas at the protesters from the corner of Yegros and Palma Streets to break up the crowd. So far, there have been no further incidents to report, but there are many people here waiting to see what will happen.

Laino Arrested on Way to Rally

PY141849 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1127 GMT
14 Feb 88

[Text] Asuncion, 14 Feb (EFE)—Paraguayan opposition leaders Domingo Laino and Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin were arrested before dawn today while traveling to the country's interior to hold a rally as part of a campaign for free elections. Presidential and legislative elections are being held in Paraguay today, and President Stroessner, who has been in power since 1954, is seeking his seventh reelection.

The noncongressional opposition had secretly invited the press to Caaguazu, 178 km east of Asuncion, where a rally for free elections was scheduled. The opposition which is not represented in Congress is not participating in today's elections and is calling on citizens to cast blank votes or to abstain from voting.

Sources of the PLRA reported that PLRA President Domingo Laino and Vice President Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin were arrested by police on their way to Caaguazu. The wife of Benitez Florentin was also arrested, a niece of the politician reported. The PLRA sources told EFE that Caaguazu has been surrounded by policemen since early this morning.

The Stroessner government had previously announced that it would act decisively against anyone who tried to disrupt the elections.

Interior Minister on Arrests

PY141932 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish
1240 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] We are here with Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro, after he cast his vote at the Law School. He talked to the press and answered questions about opposition political leaders who were arrested in Caaguazu.

[Begin recording] [Montanaro] The elections are taking place in a climate of total normality in Asuncion and in most cities and towns around the country. The elections

are proceeding without incidents, and the representatives of the two opposition parties participating in the elections are present at the polling stations, side by side with representatives of the government party.

Those who want to practice absenteeism or abstentionism, or want to cast blank votes, can do so. But we are sure the Colorado people will vote for their party candidates, President Stroessner and the deputies and senators designated at the party convention to exercise mandates in the 1988-93 term. As a Colorado and government official responsible for security, public order, and normal proceedings of the elections, I feel optimistic and happy after listening to what President Stroessner said after casting his vote: This is democracy, and the majority will govern, a majority that can be obtained through votes, which are the best instrument of democracy.

[Unidentified reporter] Can it be said there is little enthusiasm in these elections compared to previous general elections?

[Montanaro] On election day enthusiasm must not be expressed, one way or the other; expressions of enthusiasm are banned on this day. We are just enthusiastic about the success of the rally closing our electoral campaign on Thursday, when more than 100,000 people at Independencia Plaza demonstrated their support for the candidates of the Colorado Party, particularly for President Stroessner to govern the country for another 5 years.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about attendance at the polls?

[Montanaro] I am told that attendance is massive, and that voting has been proceeding without interruption since 0700. So you are in a position to attest whether there is attendance or not.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, there are indications that some abstentionist opposition politicians have been arrested. Do you know about these arrests, particularly of Domingo Laino in Caaguazu?

[Montanaro] I do know that irregularities have occurred in some churches or near some churches. But I will get reports on this as soon as I return to my office, especially from Coronel Oviedo, Felipe Matiauda, and Union, the places that may have been chosen by some politicians like Dr Domingo Laino and others to try to organize rallies to harass the government and disturb the elections. Thank you very much.

[Reporter] When will the winning candidate be proclaimed?

[Montanaro] It will be announced between 2000 and 2030 by the party executive board from Colorado House.
[end recording]

U.S. Congressman Beaten

PA141844 Paris AFP in Spanish 1803 GMT
14 Feb 88

[Text] Asuncion, 14 Feb (AFP)—U.S. Representative Martin Anderson, a member of the Democratic Party, reported today that he, several Paraguayan political opponents, and three Argentine journalists were beaten up by armed civilians who support General-President Alfredo Stroessner, while Anderson and his companions were going to the city of Ypacarai, 35 km east of Asuncion.

Anderson told Caritas Catholic radio that Argentine journalists Norberto Zeppa of the Buenos Aires newspaper CLARIN; Carlos Torrenco of Radio Universidad de la Plata and the newspaper DIARIO DE RIO NEGRO; and photographer Ramon Fugalaro of the SUMA news agency were injured.

Anderson also reported that Waldino Lovera, former president of the dissident MOPOCO, was hospitalized in Asuncion after he was injured by armed civilians.

Meanwhile, Hermes Rafael Saguier, leader of the PLRA, reported that a meeting of approximately 400 opponents was dispersed with bullets this morning in the town of Felipe Matiauda, 200 km northeast of the capital.

Saguier reported that approximately 150 opponents were held up at some point near the town and that Argentine parliamentary members accompanying him prevented his arrest by the rural police.

The political opponents were able to gather at the church to harangue the parishioners despite the strict police measures.

More on Anderson Incident

PY142116 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish
1950 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] As mentioned before, an incident took place near Ypacarai. Martin Anderson, a member of the U.S. Democratic Party who came to Paraguay to observe the presidential elections, reported on the incident that occurred this morning on the road between Itaugua and Ypacarai, two towns near Asuncion:

[Begin Anderson recording] I was going to the interior of the country in the company of Carlim [nickname for Carlos] Romero Pereira and this committee, when we were violently and savagely attacked.

Some Colorado Party leaders and an Argentine journalist who were traveling with us witnessed that our committee did not provoke anyone. We were behaving normally.

A policeman, who said his name was (Galaza), was very agitated and attacked us savagely. One of my colleagues at the Institute [National Democratic Institute, NDI] has disappeared together with Dr Martinez Yaryes' committee, and we have had no news from her since. As she is the wife of a high-ranking official of the U.S. State Department, I have already filed a complaint to the U.S. Embassy and to Ambassador Taylor, who expressed his solidarity with our difficulties.

I also want to express my deepest concern over Dr Domingo Laino, who is a great friend of the U.S. Democratic Party. We have not had any news from him, and we are very concerned. [end recording]

Election Day Incidents Viewed

PY142042 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2124 GMT
14 Feb 88

[Text] Asuncion, 14 Feb (EFE)—Paraguayan opposition leaders and foreign journalists were beaten by armed civilians on Paraguayan election day. However, the situation is absolutely calm in Asuncion, in contrast to the violence in the interior of the country.

The Paraguayan people are voting for president and congressmen, but it is public knowledge that General Alfredo Stroessner, who has been in office since 1954, will be reelected to an eighth term.

Dissenting sectors of the ruling Colorado Party have reported that opposition leader Carlos Romero and other political leaders who accompanied him were attacked by armed civilians on a road between Itaugua and Ypacarai, some 30 km east of Asuncion.

The opposition had scheduled a meeting for free elections in Ypacarai as part of the campaign for abstention or casting of blank ballots.

Susana Romero, member of the "Ethical" sector of the Colorado Party, which is very much against Stroessner, reported that the politicians were attacked again by a parapolice group when they stopped on the road.

On that occasion three Argentine journalists—one from the daily CLARIN, one from the SUMA press agency, and the third from the Universidad de la Plata radio station—were also injured.

Susana Romero said a civilian who had drawn a gun beat her on the back and the arm, while shouting orders for her to leave.

In Carapegua, 85 km from Asuncion, another group of armed civilians invaded the local cathedral in pursuit of a group of militant opposition members who had met there in support of free elections.

Luis Wagner, member of the PLRA Executive Board, said: "Some 200 civilians armed with bats and other weapons invaded the cathedral after attacking us in the courtyard after the mass."

Raphael Hermes Saguier, another PLRA leader, reported that 400 people who were heading for Felipe Matiauda, a village in the east, were shot at early this morning.

Saguier said more than 100 of them, however, reached Felipe Matiauda, where they took part in a meeting supporting free elections staged in front of the local parish church after the mass.

PLRA President Domingo Laino and Vice President Juan Manuel Benitez were detained at dawn today while trying to reach Caaguazu, 178 km east of Asuncion, where the opposition had scheduled another protest meeting.

Justice and Labor Minister Jose Eugenio Jacquet said Laino and Benitez were "delayed" on their way to "a meeting with armed people in Caaguazu, where the group intended to attack a voting place."

Jacquet said the two politicians will be released "as soon as their strategic plans are broken up."

The opposition staged a meeting in front of the Asuncion cathedral, during which some 50 people shouted slogans against Stroessner's regime and in favor of free elections.

Important leaders of dissenting parties participated in this meeting, which was observed by policemen who merely directed traffic while watching the meeting.

However, leaders of the ruling Colorado Party and of the Liberal and Radical Liberal Parties, whose candidates are running for the presidency and for Congress, said calm has reigned during the elections.

Colorado President on Victory

*PY150023 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish
2340 GMT 14 Feb 88*

[Speech by Sabino Augusto Montanaro, interior minister and president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, from Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpt] Party members of the Republic: We would like to announce to the Paraguayan people, to the members of the Colorado Party, the victory of the National Republican Association, the Colorado Party, in the general elections that ended at 1600 today. [applause]

The Electoral Committee of the Colorado Party Executive Board reports, according the latest figures, the following results: Colorado Party: 982,316 votes

[applause], that is to say, 89 percent [as heard] [applause] of the 1,446,665 registered voters; Radical Liberal Party: 78,141 votes; and Liberal Party: 32,403 votes.

This result confirms what we said during the large rally held in Plaza Independencia on 11 February—that the Colorado Party with Stroessner as its leader is the absolute majority in the Republic, in the countryside and in the cities—and it confirms the thoughts of our winning presidential candidate, who said the invincible party of General Bernardino Caballero will continue to be the great worker for the happiness and greatness of the Republic of Paraguay. [applause] [passage omitted]

Opposition Party Leader Cited

*PY151357 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish
1215 GMT 15 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] This morning we talked with leaders of several political sectors about the 1988 elections. Here we have the remarks of Christian Democratic Party leader Luis Andrada Nogues. [passage omitted]

Dr Andrada Nogues, what is the opposition proposal now?

[Begin Andrada Nogues recording] Now, I am sure the opposition will meet and prepare a serious work plan so that this type of election will never again be held in Paraguay. I can confirm what several speakers said at the People's House yesterday: That this is the last fraudulent election in our country. Next time, we will do whatever is necessary—even at the expense of our own lives—to finally defeat this dictatorial system, this political obscurantism. I can assure you that never again will there be fraudulent elections in Paraguay, because we will monitor each voting place, even if we die in the process. But they will never again mock the Paraguayan people as they did so openly on this occasion. We will meet, we will reach an accord, we will work jointly to finally defeat this scum of society, which is the Colorado Stroessnerist Party. [end recording]

Exiled Group Denounces Election

*PY160003 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1436 GMT
15 Feb 88*

[Text] Posadas, 15 Feb (TELAM)—The exiled Paraguayan Confederation of Workers said today that the 14 February elections in Paraguay are not valid because the Paraguayan Government did not respect the civil, political, social, or constitutional rights of the citizenry.

Julio Etcheverry, leader of the organization, said that the elections, in which Alfredo Stroessner was reelected for the seventh time, were nothing but a fraud.

He added that the situation in his country is serious, not only for the Paraguayan people but for the democratic institutions as well. He therefore requested the solidarity of Latin America and of the world with those who oppose the current Paraguayan Government.

Spanish Lawmaker Comments

PY151850 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1626 GMT
15 Feb 88

[Text] Asuncion, 15 Feb (EFE)—European Parliament member Manuel Medina, a Spanish citizen, today said that the electoral process that ended in Paraguay on 14 February was "frustrated" by the lack of press freedom, which prevented all possibilities for undertaking any "truly opposition work."

Medina arrived in Asuncion on Friday to observe the elections on behalf of the Socialist group of the European Parliament.

In an interview with EFE, Medina said: "The electoral process was virtually frustrated in the absence of press freedom. There were no opportunities to do any truly opposition work and as a result, democratic parties could not participate in the elections."

Medina mentioned as examples the closure of the newspaper ABC-COLOR in 1984, of the Social Democratic weekly EL PUEBLO in 1987, and of Radio Nanduti, the owners of which were compelled to close it in 1987 because of interference of an unknown origin on the station's frequency.

"In the absence of mass media, and in view of the fact that the radio and the television were used to support the same candidate, it can be concluded that the electoral process is not legitimate," he added.

The ruling Colorado Party won yesterday's presidential and legislative elections with 89 percent of the votes, which permitted the seventh reelection of General Alfredo Stroessner, who has been in power since 1954.

However, the opposition reported several irregularities in the electoral process, charging that it was a "great, outrageous, and shameful" fraud.

"I did not even bother to go to the electoral court, because under these conditions, the result would have been practically the same even with a clean election," Medina added.

During his 4 days in Asuncion, Medina met with officials of the Stroessner administration, to whom he spoke "on the need to respect human rights and to reopen the mass media."

"There is room for improvement, but in the case of governments in which one person has all the power, changes are impossible unless they begin from the inside, from the system, because no changes can come from the outside," Medina maintained.

Opposition Board on Elections

PY160016 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
15 Feb 88 p 6

[Excerpt] The members of the Coordinating Board for Free Elections, which is composed of opposition political parties, held a news conference yesterday and said that their campaign was a success. Foreign politicians also attended the news conference. Figures on the general elections were given.

The news conference was held in the House of the People last night. The Coordinating Board for Free Elections evaluated the election results and the influence the board's campaign, conducted weeks before the elections, had on the people.

Miguel Abdon Saguier of the Popular Mobilization for Change of the PLRA gave details of what he believed were "irregularities and fraud" during the elections. He said: "First of all there were no secret ballots, the vote was cast in the open, it was not secret; the officials of the polling stations handed over envelopes with the ballots of the official party already inside; the pseudo-opposition parties did not have observers, and the few who were there tolerated irregularities. Some people voted for write-in candidates; the vote was not personal [as published]. Others voted for people listed in the voters' registration; some voted two or three times in different locations like a merry-go-round; public officials used government means to conduct political campaigns and to transport voters on election day; blank votes were not accepted, and the voters' documents of those who cast blank ballots were not stamped to prove they voted; political campaigns in support of the official candidates continued on election day; and uniformed police were in secret rooms checking and pressuring voters.

Saguier concluded by saying that "parapolice elements threaten the people in the countryside and towns. They threaten voters to vote for the official candidate."

Gustavo A. Riart Ortellado of the Coordinating Board for Free Elections said: "The results of today's elections was a success for all the organizations of the board. The percentage of absenteeism and blank votes were high in relation to the official results."

Riart added: "The real figures show that absenteeism and blank votes reached 60 to 65 percent of voters. However, in some polling stations the percentage of blank votes was very high." Riart named several polling stations in this regard.

He added: "The Coordinating Board believes that its campaign was a real success and that it is going to be costly to the regime. From now on, none of the people who are going to hold public posts can consider themselves real representatives of the Paraguayan people." [passage omitted]

PLRA Communique on Laino
PY160041 Asuncion *ULTIMA HORA* in Spanish
15 Feb 88 p 9

[Text] The Executive Board of the PLRA has released a communique "strongly rejecting the kidnapping of the highest-ranking party members." The communique adds that this kidnapping "is the most obvious proof of the recent electoral fraud," and emphasizes "the civic courage of Paraguayan women as evinced by the behavior of Martha Nunes de Benitez Florentin."

The communique comments on the incidents that occurred yesterday and states: "While the electoral fraud to elect the president and congressmen was being carried out throughout the country, Martha Nunez de Benitez Florentin; PLRA President Dr Domingo Laino, Vice President Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, and youth leader Ramon Ferreira were being held in a hermetically-sealed cell, under deplorable conditions. These people had no access to a restroom, nor could they wash themselves. They had no beds or mattresses, and were exposed to tremendous humidity.

"The four political leaders were taken to this cell after being kidnapped at 0330 on 14 February at km 130 of the road (?to Puerto President Stroessner). They were simply kidnapped without being asked any question or given any explanation. A most unusual thing also occurred: a woman was held in the same cell with three men. This does not occur in any jail in the world," the communique states.

"After holding the PLRA leaders in the cell for 12 hours, four men dressed in civilian clothes opened the door and told them to enter a car, which eventually took them to Asuncion. At the corner of Mariscal Lopez and San Martin Avenues, the car stopped abruptly and the armed civilians opened the door and told them: Get out and go vote," the communique claims.

"This arrest had all the characteristics of a kidnapping. The leaders did not pass by the guard, or have their names written on the registration book. It was merely reported that they were being held at the Colonel Oviedo Government House. After 12 hours, armed civilians left them on the street without explaining why they were kidnapped. They had no respect for their human rights, very much in the style of the Argentine Triple A (Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance) Group," the communique concludes.

Peru

'Wave of Attacks' Reported Throughout Country
PA142010 Paris AFP in Spanish 1743 GMT
14 Feb 88

[Text] Lima, 14 Feb (AFP)—The police reported today in this capital that subversive groups unleashed a new wave of attacks last night on national and foreign companies, causing considerable damage but no casualties.

The sources added that a commando of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) traveling in a vehicle threw a dynamite bomb at the offices of the Shell Oil Company in the Lima district of San Isidro. The explosion caused minor damage to the facade of the building and broke windows in several houses near the building.

The MRTA claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to a local morning newspaper, and said it was perpetrated to protest negotiations being held by the Peruvian Government and Shell to allow the latter to exploit the gas deposit found in Camisea, Cusco Department, in the southeast Andean region.

Similar attacks were perpetrated against an important furniture store and the Todos Company, located in the Lima district of La Victoria; a shopping mall in San Isidro; and BELCO [expansion unknown] Laboratories in Barranco, causing considerable damage and alarming the neighbors.

Another terrorist group used fire bombs to attack ARCO [expansion unknown], a Peruvian company located at km 3 on the Central Highway. No subversive group has claimed responsibility for these attacks until now. The attacks were perpetrated a few days before the government celebrates the birthday of Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, leader and founder of APRA, the government party.

Reports from Cerro de Pasco, Pasco, indicate that subversive forces detonated three explosive devices at the parking lot used by the state-owned CENTROMIN-Peru to park its trucks for transporting minerals. The police, who immediately cordoned off the area, gave no details concerning casualties or damage.

Meanwhile, Army patrols have launched a large-scale land and air manhunt to apprehend the Shining Path forces presumably responsible for ambushing a military patrol on Friday in a remote area of Atahuatun, Huanuco, killing 9 soldiers and wounding 17.

A military spokesman said the military patrol began its search that same day, and the soldiers have advanced in the thick forest, where the subversives fled, despite heavy rains.

Furthermore, the political-military command headquartered at Tarapoto, in San Martin zone, suspended for today and tomorrow the curfew in the region, because the people are celebrating the carnival, considered one of the most important events in that forest region. The curfew was established in Tarapoto following the 5 November 1987 MRTA uprising throughout that department, where drug trafficking also prevails.

Garcia on Military Patrol Attack
PA131654 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Is it true there has been a serious attack in Huanuco?

[Garcia] That is correct. A few hours ago, a truck carrying a group of Army soldiers and officers was blown up by dynamite—or perhaps it was a mine. The patrol was on a civic action mission; they were going to repair a bridge damaged by a landslide. They were ambushed, and there are several dead; so far we know of at least eight dead. It is very sad that one of our Army patrols was ambushed while on a civic action mission to help communities.

[Reporter] Mr President, police officers were killed in an incident yesterday, and, unfortunately, other people could be killed tomorrow. Are there plans, at least in that emergency area, to take further steps against the rebels?

[Garcia] I believe an increase in self-defense measures is necessary. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Submits Resignation
PY161146 Lima Panamericana Television Network
in Spanish 0310 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] This is a late-minute report. Justice Minister Carlos Blancas Bustamante has submitted his irrevocable resignation to President Alan Garcia. He did this in order to be able to fully assume other responsibilities within his party, the Christian Democratic Party.

In his letter of resignation, dated 28 January 1988, Bustamante thanked the president for his trust, and expressed his personal, as well as his party's, will to continue cooperating with the present administration.

Minister on Equipment Purchased From Israel
PA141320 Paris AFP in Spanish 0014 GMT
11 Feb 88

[Text] Lima, 10 Feb (AFP)—Interior Minister Jose Barsallo reported in Lima today that Peru bought 12 helicopters, 72 armored vehicles, and several boats from Israel to combat drug traffickers in the vast Amazon region.

He said the equipment will begin arriving next month and will be used to fight the Colombian, Brazilian, and Peruvian mafias operating in the Peruvian jungle.

Barsallo did not provide specifics on the equipment or the cost. This is one of Peru's largest purchases to combat drug trafficking.

Estimates accepted by Peruvian officials note that the growth in drug trafficking has netted \$14 billion in profits for the mafia in past years, a figure almost equal to Peru's foreign debt.

Shining Path Deserters Claim Slave Labor
PA120102 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1200 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Several Shining Path deserters in Cusco said they served as slaves for the terrorists during nearly 4 years of captivity. During that time, they lived in subhuman conditions and were forced to work for and feed Shining Path members.

The former members of the rebel group escaped on 23 December 1987 from La Convencion, Cusco; 10 deserters were recaptured by the Shining Path. They pointed out that they are residents of (Oronjoi) District, La Mar Province, Ayacucho, which has 500 inhabitants. They said men, women, elderly people, and children were forced to join the subversive ranks in February 1984.

The deserters added that they were taken to high areas of the (Oronjoi) jungle. They were bloody and very bad off. Someone in the group planned to escape and when their captors found out, they killed that person in front of the others as a warning. They made us work during the afternoons and feed them in the evenings.

The deserters pointed out that despite threats, approximately 300 peasants managed to flee between 1984 and 1987. Many abandoned their children to escape alive from the hands of the Shining Path. In May 1987, they were transferred to (Virca Suhuaman), Ayacucho, La Convencion Province, to work under the orders of another Shining Path command in that area.

Meanwhile, reports out of Ayacucho state that terrorists stabbed three peasants to death last Sunday in an isolated village in that department. Shining Path members stormed into (Sirinachoc), 200 km northwest of Ayacucho, forcefully pulled the three peasants from their homes, and killed them in cold blood in the plaza in front of the residents, who watched helplessly because they could do nothing to prevent the murders.

Shortly after, they urged residents to join the armed struggle and left for the mountains. The authorities have deployed patrols to the area to pursue the rebels.

Suriname

Marowijne Committee Petitions Shankar
FL151903 Paramaribo International Service
in English 1730 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The Committee for the Development of Marowijne has asked President Shankar to use his office and put an end to the spate of robberies by persons in the area of the Marowijne District—for instance in Albina—where goods and houses which were left behind were robbed. They are also calling for the abolition of passes which must be obtained by Albina residents who want to visit their houses. This was stated this morning to our newsroom by Dr (Kroni) who is a member of the committee.

Representatives of the committee informed President Shankar of the goings on in the area since the fightings between the National Army and the Brunswijk Gang began. The president says that peace between the Army and the Brunswijk Gang is an important start to the activities in the area. According to the president, steps are being taken to achieve this goal, so said Dr (Kroni) to our newsroom.

However, the committee will have to wait for a government declaration before concrete arrangements could be made to start rehabilitation activities.

Minister Meets With Journalists' Groups
FL151914 Paramaribo International Service
in English 1730 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Education Minister Ronald Venetiaan, who is now responsible for the media policy, this morning met both journalists' association in Suriname for orientation discussions. The minister met with the boards of the Progressive Media Workers Association and the Suriname Journalists Circle.

The minister said the most important task is the question of professional ethics as well as defining the Surinamese standpoint regarding the new international information and communication order.

Minister Venetiaan, who has part of the media under his responsibility, said that the government declaration will contain intentions rather than standpoints. He said he hopes to have open dialogue with both groups in the future.